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Wrestling

VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

March 1977
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**THE MAGAZINE THAT
RIPS THE LID OFF
PRO WRESTLING!**

**HAS NICK
BOCKWINKLE
SIGNED HIS
LIFE AWAY TO
BOBBY HEENAN?**



**BRUNO
SAMMARTINO
(1963)**



**BRUNO
SAMMARTINO
(1977)**

WHO WOULD WIN?

**PLUS THESE SPECIAL
BONUS FEATURES:**

**SHOULD STAN STASIAK
BE BANNED?—Page 6**

**WILL VERNE GAGNE
TURN VILLAIN?—Page 38**

**FULL-PAGE PINUP
OF MIKE GRAHAM**

**AND
MUCH
MORE!!!**



ANDRE THE GIANT:

**"THEY'LL
NEVER
LET ME BE
CHAMPION!"**



**JACK BRISCO
IS DRIVING
TERRY FUNK
CRAZY...AND
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IS TO
BLAME!**



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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE *Wrestling*

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

One never knows what goodies one will find in the morning mail.

I found one beautiful plum this morning. It was postmarked Amarillo, Texas, and it was sent by none other than NWA champion Terry Funk himself! In his unmistakable style, my "friend" Terry wrote:

Dear Stupid:

What the hell do you clowns at INSIDE WRESTLING think you're doing? I know you bums don't know how to write, but that doesn't give you the right to put that bum Brisco on your payroll. Please tell him to stop following me around. Why is he against me? Why are you against me? Why is everyone against me? It's prejudice, that's what it is! Why, O why was I blessed with superhuman abilities and intelligence? Yes, sometimes I wish I was a low-class piece of dirt like you. Then I would be well liked. Ha! I bet you guys think I'm crazy! Well, you don't scare me. Brisco doesn't scare me. I AM THE GREATEST!!!

Yours truly,

TERRY FUNK

Champion of the World

& All the Universe

Well, as even an amateur psychologist can tell you from just a quick reading of the above letter, Mr. Funk has got himself a few problems. I don't know why Terry thinks we're all against him. I for one have always felt he was an excellent wrestler. And I certainly never thought he was crazy. However, another letter like the one I got this morning and even I'm going to change my mind!



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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy
Gordon



RECENTLY, AFTER DONNING one of my super disguises, I went into the dressing room of Bulldog Brower. Brower is among many of the vicious rulebreakers with whom I once was friendly, but who would kill me now if he ever had the chance. Bulldog, believing I was the 60-year-old, silver-haired owner of a cable television station, said, "I have an exclusive story for you. Something happened to me over a year ago I haven't told anybody about. But I have to get it off my chest, and I want you to be the first to know. I was taken captive aboard a UFO while driving along a deserted road in Virginia."

I laughed and asked him if the space visitors were wrestling fans. Slamming his fist on a dressing room table, he yelled, "I'm serious! Don't make jokes! I'm not crazy! It really happened. I've been deeply affected by what happened that night!"

I somehow doubt the authenticity of Bulldog's story, but I'll tell you this: Somewhere along the line, he was deeply affected by something!

Ready for this one? It seems just about all of wrestling's rulebreakers are terrified every time any reporter walks in his dressing room nowadays. They all think he could be Randy Gordon in disguise. On two occasions, as I have attempted to interview rulebreakers, the guy—suspecting it might be Randy Gordon in disguise—has tugged at my moustache to see if it would come off. But how could it come off? My moustache is real! I now have most rulebreakers in such a paranoid state, they don't know whether they're coming or going.

Recently, Ric Flair was being interviewed by a reporter, and the questions were becoming a little too hot for Flair to handle. Suddenly he screamed at the guy, "You must be Randy Gordon in one of those stupid disguises." Grabbing the guy, Ric tried to pull the reporter's moustache off. Because it was real, it didn't come off. But the moustache was dyed, and the dark-colored dye came off on Flair's fingers. Ric figured it was definitely me in disguise, and gave

(Continued on page 46)

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By **DAN
SHOCKET**

THERE ARE TIMES when it seems wrestling fans suffer from leprosy of the brain. That's the only logical explanation for their booing of wrestling's most intelligent men. Of course, I'm talking about the managers.

Wrestlers under the management of geniuses like Lou Albano, Bobby Heenan, George Cannon, Gary Hart, J.J. Dillon, and many others, are always more exciting than their opponents, mostly wrestlers of the mediocre scientific type. A wrestler guided by Freddie Blassie can defeat any wrestler on his own—if the referee doesn't interfere!



Gary Hart—now here is a man who is true genius. His brains have guided numerous grapplers onto their greatest victories.

That's right, it's the referees who interfere, not the managers. Under the pretext of stopping imaginary managerial interference, the referees always aid the scientific wrestler, a man whose popularity always exceeds his ability. The advantage a wrestler enjoys by

having a manager's guidance is often destroyed by the nit-picking arguments of the officials, many of whom are undoubtedly on the payroll of "scientific" wrestlers. Many matches have been ruined because the referee halts the action, claiming interference on the part of the manager.

It's a wonder managers remain in the sport when they are hounded by officials and hated by unthinking fans. These men could be successful in any career. Most professions would be overjoyed to have men of such intelligence, foresight, ambition, and imagination. Yet, despite all the inconveniences they suffer, these men continue to remain in wrestling, trying to help the sport they love so dearly.

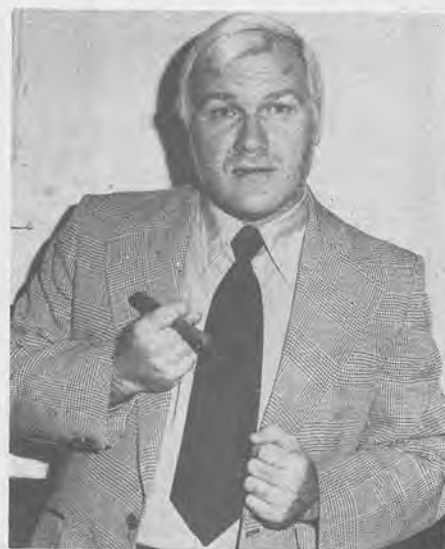
I don't know whether to be sad or enraged when Lou Albano's appearance is greeted by angry boos. This man has managed the Valiants, The Executioners, Nikolai Volkoff, and many other top wrestlers. Time and again, championships have been stolen from his wrestlers, much to the delight of moronic fans. It would break the heart of a weaker man. Albano, like all great managers, has a spirit which can't be broken. He couldn't survive if he didn't.

"All managers," my friend Lou tells me, "live with being misunderstood; it's part of the price we pay. It's understandable when you think about it. You'd expect the stupid fans to resent men of intelligence. Managers are the smartest people in wrestling. Geniuses don't expect to be appreciated by people too stupid to blink without instruction.

"I always make sure my wrestlers know not to expect the love of the fans, who are probably the stupidest creatures on earth. My men wrestle



The always friendly non-interfering manager George Cannon (above), a close, dear friend, J.J. Dillon—what more could any wrestler ask for in a manager (below).



only for the joy of knowing they are better than anyone else in the sport. They become better because they listen to me.

"A lot of wrestlers don't have
(Continued on page 52)



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Joe proudly poses with his famous pupil, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mr. Olympia winner.

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FAIRGROUNDS
RICHMOND

BOSTON, MASS.—To be honest, I almost didn't recognize Stan Hansen when I saw him. Or maybe it was just that I didn't want to recognize him. Nonetheless, he didn't seem quite as ferocious as I had imagined he would be.

Hansen is naturally quite cautious with all reporters these days. He has had some rough treatment by members of the press, including my colleague, Randy Gordon. It took some very sensitive negotiations to get this interview. I had to explain to Stan I really had nothing to do with his feud with Randy, since I have been on the road most of the time.



Stan Hansen proves his ability against Ivan Putski (above). Hansen is quite reluctant to give out any more interviews (below) because of the unfair criticism he has received by the press.



We met each other at the Commons, the beautiful park in the middle of the old city. It was a rather chilly day, but the sky was clear and the air was crisp. It is my favorite kind of weather.

Much has been written about Stan Hansen, his "lariat," and his feud with Bruno Sammartino. Yet no member of the press has ever explored Hansen's treatment by other members of the press. I decided to delve into this murky area.

"In general," Stan told me, "most reporters hate me. Now I don't think that is particularly fair. I've never done anything to them. They just hate me because they think I'm a bad man."

I wondered if this could have something to do with the way he wrestles. After all, Hansen has never been known for his strict adherence to the rules. Many wrestling reporters are filled with righteous indignation, and they carry this over to their treatment of rulebreakers.

"Yes," he told me, "that is

certainly a large part of the problem. A lot of these reporters have some cause they wish to champion. They use me as an example of the 'bad guy,' and my opponents as examples of 'good guys.' These reporters come into an interview prejudiced against me. The end result is usually a story which reflects badly on me."

Do these stories anger him, I wondered.

"Oh hell, I don't get that upset. Never have. It's not part of my nature. I know where these guys are coming from. I understand. It's part of my job to be attacked by the press. I really don't care. What some reporter says is not going to make me lose my cool."

"But you take some other wrestlers. Did you know Bruno Sammartino reads every word that's written about him. If he sees something he doesn't like, he really gets angry. At least that's what I've heard. Hell, he should learn you can't have flattery every day of the week. There are still a few reporters

(Continued on page 56)

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THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS IN OUR FILES FROM MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE FOUND SUCCESS AS DURACLEAN DEALERS. (IN ANOTHER YEAR YOUR STATEMENT COULD BE HERE, TOO.)

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NAMES MAKI

The tournament to determine the new World Wide Wrestling Federation tag team champions is over. CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW and BILLY WHITE WOLF are now the proud owners of the treasured gold championship belts. Wish them luck—they will certainly need it. The former tag team kings, THE EXECUTIONERS, like several other teams known for brutal tactics, have made it clear they want the Indians' reign to be a short one.



MIL MASCARAS

Taking MIL MASCARAS away from California several years ago was like taking apple pie away from ice cream. When it is missing it is obvious, and it just cannot be replaced. So you can imagine the joy of California fans when the Mexican returned to the site of his greatest victories. Every arena Mil appeared in was packed to capacity. One person not too thrilled to see Mil was KEN MANTELL. The man from Tennessee is hated by fans in California. Mil, fighting for the fans, taught Ken a lesson he will never forget.

East coast fans are also enjoying a strong flow of top talent in their



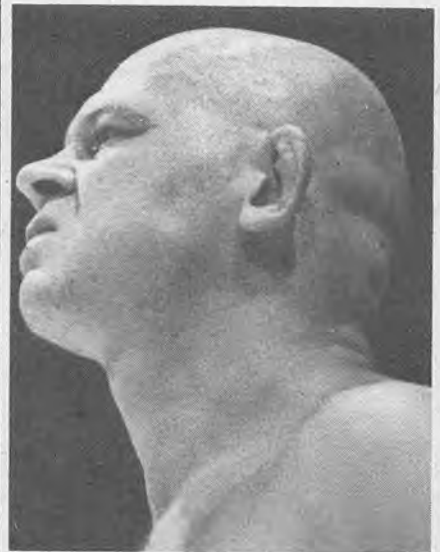
**STRONGBOW
& WHITE WOLF**

area. The top young rookie, BOB BACKLUND, is delighting them with his superior scientific ringmanship . . . Also in the cast, much to the displeasure of fans, is the man with the "brain claw" as his specialty, BARON VON RASCHKE. The Baron claims, "My brain claw will not work on BRUNO SAMMARTINO. He has no brains!" . . . PAUL JONES is a great fellow. When he heard that some kids in a South Carolina hospital had the blues because their TV was broken and they couldn't watch wrestling, Paul hurried over to the hospital after his match and spent an hour signing autographs and answering questions.

It is amazing to see how easily OLE and GENE ANDERSON whip all the top rated competition they face. They get this reporter's vote as one of the most brutal and well-coordinated teams in history . . . DICK SLATER came very close to unmaking MR. WRESTLING II. He got the mask all the way up over the nose of the masked man. TIM WOODS ran in and distracted Slater momentarily so Wrestling II could readjust the hood. Several fans at ringside claim they now know Wrestling II's identity . . . The

strange MR. X is causing all kinds of havoc in Florida. As he did in Georgia, he is sitting at ringside and taking notes and motion pictures of all possible future opponents.

JOSE LOTHARIO is having a very hard time trying to find a partner to help him whip the vicious team of MOONDOG MAYNE AND SEIG STANKE. So far, ANDRE THE GIANT, DUSTY RHODES, and



BARON VON RASCHKE



DICK SLATER

several other superstars have failed to help Jose realize his goal . . . JOE LEDUC and SUPERSTAR GRAHAM have collided—head on! LeDuc claims he can best Superstar in a

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



MIGHTY IGOR

test of strength. Joe should note that several of wrestling's best known strongmen have failed to budge Graham off his throne of power. He is indeed the master in that class . . . Blond bad guy KEN PATERA boasts that CAPTIN LOU ALBANO spent more money purchasing his contract than the manager has spent on his last three proteges combined!

Fans in Georgia are waiting for the big showdown between MIGHTY IGOR and MONGOLIAN STOMPER. The bomb between them has been burning its fuse for months and an explosion may happen at any time . . . Here is a



ROCKY JOHNSON

strange item: PROFESSOR TANAKA is being hailed as a fan favorite in the Tennessee area . . . IRISH PAT BARRETT, keeping a strong grip on his Junior Heavyweight title, gave ANGELO MOSCA one of the most devastating suplexes ever. Angelo was rocketed over the top ropes—from mid ring! He crashed down on a press table. The aftermath—Mosca needed 25 stitches! . . . DON LEO JONATHAN is negotiating to return to the WWWF areas.

ROCKY JOHNSON had a big war going against THE SHEIK a few years back. The war erupted again in Texas recently, and it was a violent series of matches. Unfortunately for Rocky, The Sheik

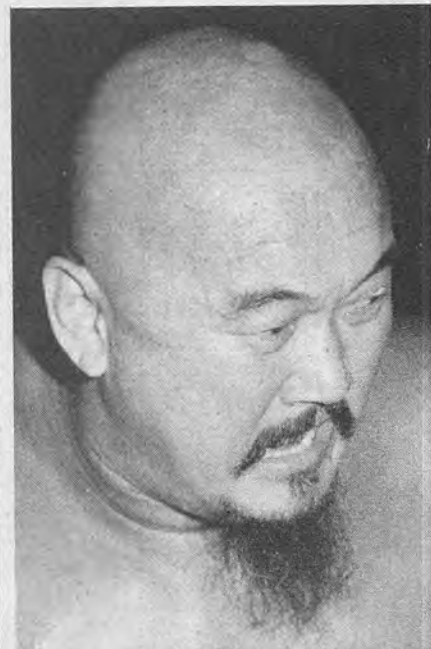


RAY STEVENS



BOB BACKLUND

used his forehead to carve roadmaps. The wild Arab is one man Rocky has a tough time handling. Rocky does not like to brawl, but he may have to if he wrestles Sheik



MR. FUGI

again . . . Insiders say FRED BLASSIE is about to dump TOR KAMATA from his stable of wrestlers. Reports go on to say Kamata does not listen to or follow Blassie's orders, and in Freddie's camp, that is grounds for firing! Supposedly, that is the reason SCANDOR AKBAR is no longer with Blassie.

Congratulations to MR. FUGI. He just celebrated his 20th consecutive defense of his U.S. title . . . BEAU JAMES, former manager of RAY STEVENS, is wrestling now! That's right. The slim but talented James is showing his stuff in Florida rings . . . Believe it or not, the same holds true for pudgy SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK. He has donned the tights on several occasions when his HOLLYWOOD BLONDS are not in need of his services . . . By the way, Humperdink and the Blonds seriously injured one half of the Florida tag team champions, KEN LUCAS. Ken's partner, MIKE GRAHAM, has been told that if he and Ken are unable to defend the belts within 30 days, they must relinquish the title. In that case, a tournament will be held with the belts up for grabs.

That's all the news for this month!



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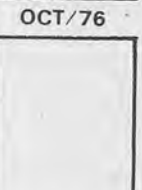
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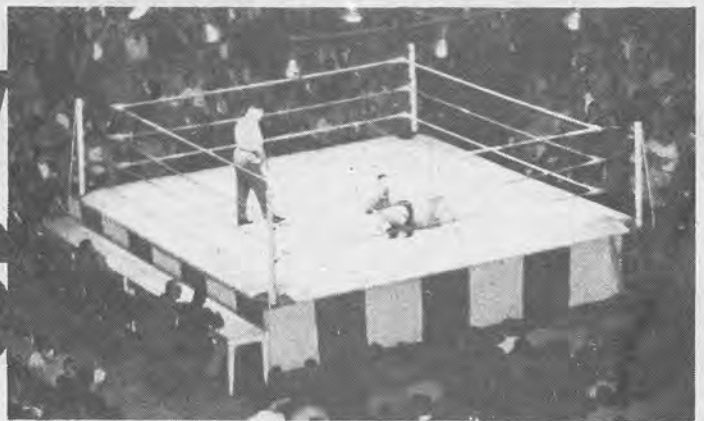
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SINCERELY YOURS



ABOUT DAN SHOCKET

I believe Dan Shocket's "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" (INSIDE WRESTLING/January 1977) had to be the most honest article I have ever read! There is no reason to be angry with what he wrote; the man was telling it like it is, no holds barred.

It was the same way when Terry Funk won the world title. The fans booed Funk on every illegal tactic he used. Yet they cheered Jack Brisco whenever he applied any less-than-legal maneuvers. That also goes for



Associate Editor Dan Shocket (above) has become wrestling's most controversial columnist. Mil Mascaras tortures Hartford Love (below). Mil made a promise to a dying child and gained more respect from fans for keeping his word to the youngster.



Dusty Rhodes. Have you ever seen him wrestle clean? No, because if he did, he wouldn't stand a chance of winning.

For many years I have cheered the favorites, but this article has opened my eyes! That doesn't mean I will never cheer for a fan favorite again, but from now on I'll watch them more closely. Thank you, Dan, for a very sincere article.

MARGUERITE SALEM
Boynton Beach, Fla.

HOW DARE DAN

How dare Dan Shocket write the falsest story I have ever read. I am referring to his latest "Bodyslams and Pinfalls." He says Bruno Sammartino is a dirty wrestler. I admit it is true Bruno has to resort to less-than-legal tactics, but the only reason he does this is to keep such maniacs like Stan Stasiak, Stan Hansen, and Bruiser Brodie from killing him!

IRA SAMET
Plainview, N.Y.

THANKS FOR THE STORY

Thank you very much for printing the story, "The Tragic Promise That Forces Mil Mascaras to Keep Wrestling" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). It proved Mil is one of the greatest men in professional wrestling and the world.

I hope he keeps wrestling. He is truly a great man.

CHUCK SLATE
Decatur, Ga.

INTERVIEW ANDRE

I think your magazine is one of the best printed. My favorite part is probably the "Hotseat." You have had some great wrestlers in the past, such as Bruiser, Mr. Wrestling II, and others. But I think an excellent wrestler to interview would be Andre the Giant. Andre is my favorite wrestler, and I would love to learn more about him.

ERIC BORIM
Teaneck, N.J.

Editor's Note: If you turn to page 26, Eric, you will find just what you are looking for—one of the most intensive interviews ever conducted with Andre the Giant.

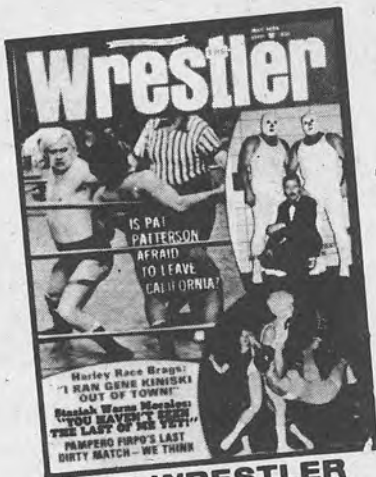
STRAIGHTEN OUT, JACK!

As one of his staunchest supporters for almost four years, I read with great interest, "The Plot to Drive Jack Brisco Out of Wrestling" (INSIDE WRESTLING/January 1977).

In all fairness to the guys you implicated, they need not worry—Jack will do it himself. I've seen him before, during, and after the belt. As much as I dearly love the man, I have to admit that what they say is true. He has gone to pot, and he is much too good a man to let that happen. So please Jack Brisco, do all your fans a favor and straighten up!

CAROL HODGES
Chamblee, Ga.
(Continued on page 60)

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TOP WRESTLE

YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571**

The "Question of the Month" is:

"If you had a chance to unmask one wrestler, who would it be and why?"

Submitted by:
Kevin Robins;
St. Albans, New York



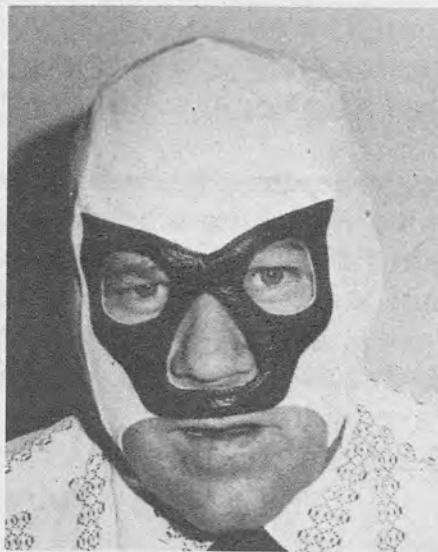
JACK BRISCO

"I can think of only one man whom I would ever want to see unmasked—The Spoiler. He has done more damage to the dignity of wrestling than any man I know. It would be good to end his career forever!"



CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

"I really am not sure what masked wrestler I would want to unmask. It would have to be either Executioner #1 or Executioner #2. Both of them are despicable and deserve to be unmasked!"



MR. WRESTLING II

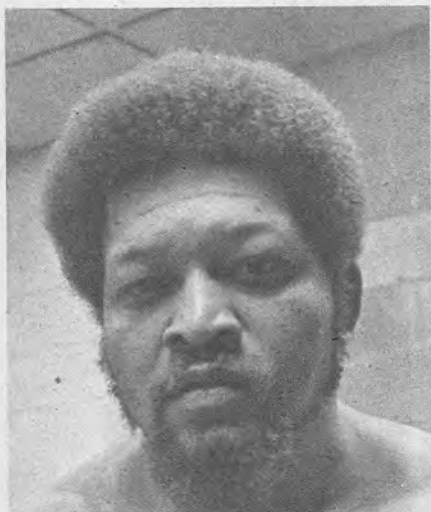
"Even if I had the perfect opportunity, I would never want to take the mask off any wrestler, be he a rulebreaker or not. I have too much respect for the mask and what it stands for. I simply could not do it."



ANDRE THE GIANT

"The one masked wrestler who I really think should be unmasked is Inferno #2. I have only encountered his vicious, illegal tactics once, but that was enough for me to want to have him unmasked."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



ERNIE LADD

"I want to go on record as saying I want to see Mil Mascaras unmasked. There is something being hidden by that mask, and I aim to find out just what it is!"



BILLY WHITE WOLF

"Without a doubt, I would like to unmask Executioner #1. Of the two Executioners, he is definitely the more vicious and cruel. However, once #1 was unmasked, I'd immediately go after #2!"



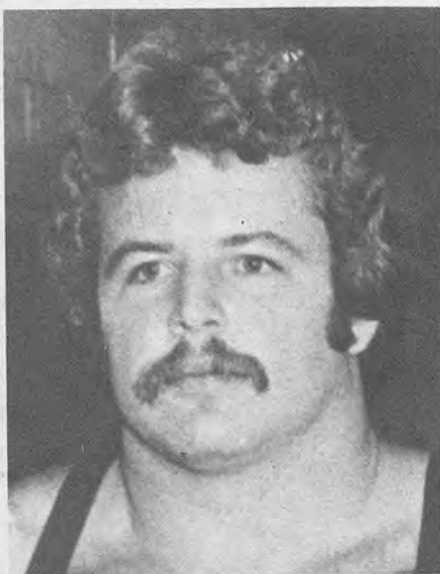
MIL MASCARAS

"I would like to see any man who wears a mask and uses illegal tactics unmasked. Any man who brings disgrace to the mask does not deserve to wear one."



IVAN PUTSKI

"There is no one masked wrestler I would like to see unmasked. However, if I had my way, there would be no such thing as masked wrestlers. I don't like not being able to see an opponent's face."



MIKE GRAHAM

"This is a difficult question for me. I have already unmasked one wrestler—Bob Roop—and it was not an easy task to do. I can't think of anyone else I would want unmasked."



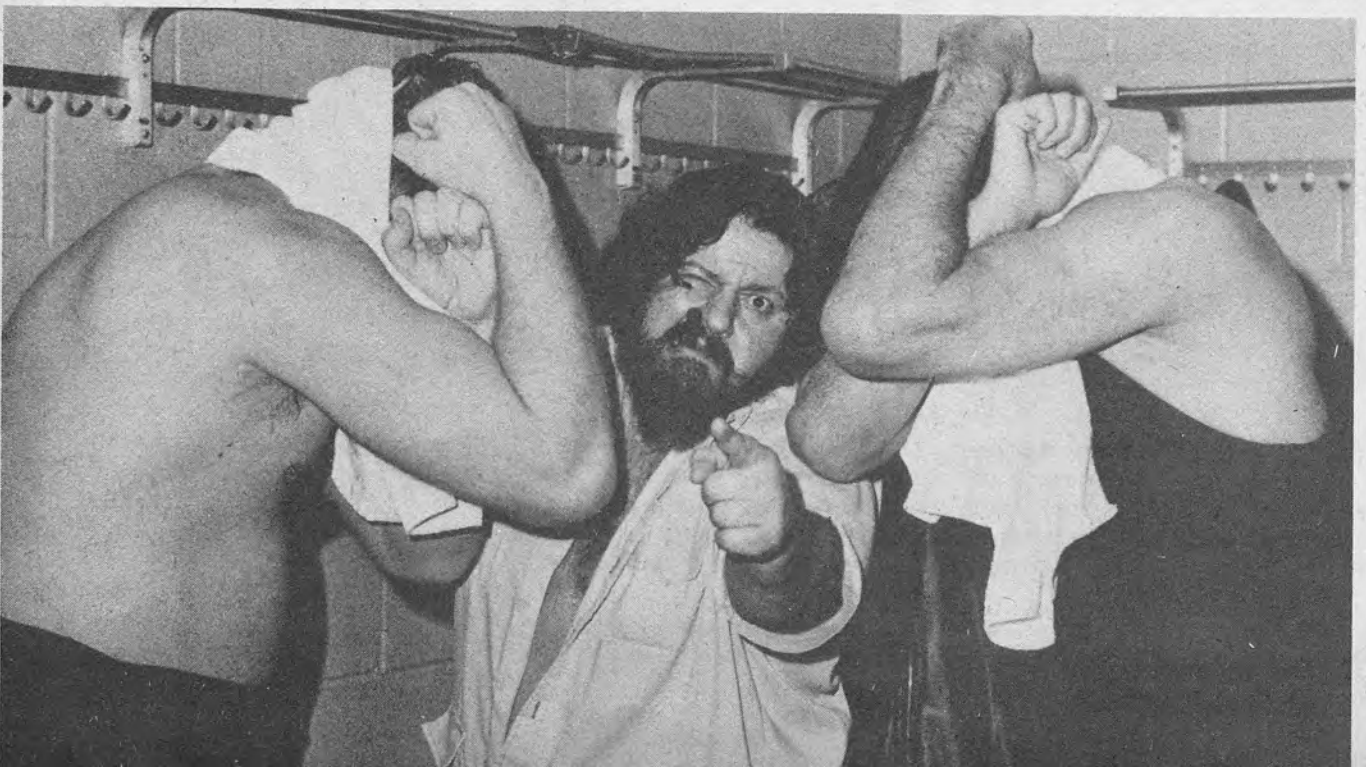
TERRY FUNK

"I'm against the use of masks in wrestling at all. But if there's one man I'd like to see unmasked, I think it would have to be Mr. Wrestling II. His white mask gives me the creeps." □

EXCLUSIVE

FIRST PHOTOS OF THE EXECUTIONERS UNMASKED!!!

Here are the first photos of The Executioners unmasked! Before you rush out to tell your friends, however, be sure to read the story. Lou Albano's craftiness can never be underestimated!



By Randy Gordon

THE WHOLE THING stinks. Whenever you believe Albano, you burn. Sooner or later, every time, you burn.

It all started at the wrestling match. Our photographer, a man who thinks closed doors are a challenge instead of an obstacle, opened the dressing room door. Inside were The Executioners and Albano. The Executioners had their masks off. Two clicks of the shutter and the faces of The Executioners were on film. Forever.

Albano didn't panic, though his wrestlers looked like a couple of rats being informed of a flash flood. He grabbed at the camera, missed, and then decided to talk.

"Look," he said, purring like a rich lady's cat, "those are going to be lousy photos. They turned their heads. The best you'll get are blurs. No identification will be possible.

"You've forced my hand, though. I don't want The Executioners unmasked. But if it has to be, then I want it right. These men are great and they deserve the best. Give me the film you have, so I'm sure those photos won't be seen. I promise to send you a picture of The Executioners' unmasked, presented the way the world should see them. Is it a deal? If I don't send you a photo, I'll pay you \$250,000!"

"It's deal if I have it in writing," our photographer replied. "Make it legal and it's yours. However, if I don't get the photo the next day, I want the \$250,000 promised in the contract."

"Make it a million," Albano declared. "You'll get the photo."

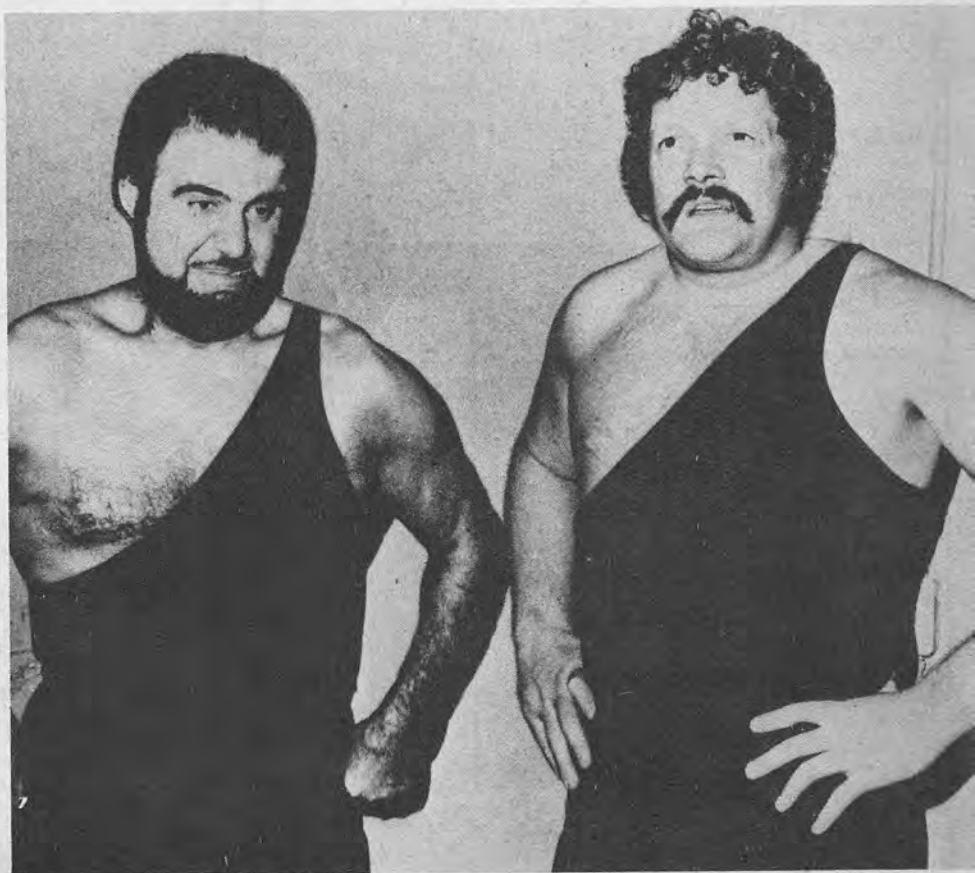
"All right, make it a million."

So the deal was made. The next day, Albano sent the photo. He even sent a photo of The Executioners hiding their heads with an accompanying note: "This was the best of your photos. You can't tell who they are at all. Even so, though I didn't need to do it, I sent The Executioners posing unmasked. I'm a

(Continued on page 50)



The masked Executioners (above) are an infamous sight in every WWWF arena. Without their masks, they appear to be Doug Gilbert and Scandor Akbar (below)! But can this photo be trusted? When Lou Albano put his hand to anything, trust flies out the window. That's something to consider when deciding whether or not to believe this reveals the Executioners' identities. Each fan must decide for himself.



Left, opposite page: This is the photograph taken by our intrepid photographer who surprised The Executioners while they were unmasked.

For Wrestling Fans
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... EVERYBODY can join
in on the fun ... There's
nothing to buy!

the Wonderful World of

PE

If you join "The Wonderful World of Pen Pals," you can make new friends throughout the world. And all of your new pen pals will be wrestling fans too! We will print your picture right here in this magazine, and also a little bit of information about who you are. That way, your new pen pals will know something about you even before they start to send you their letters! Just think—you can have the chance to receive mail from all over the world! All you have to do is fill out the coupon below and mail it to us, along with a recent picture. We'll take it from there.

PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED!

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Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Hobbies, other interests _____

Favorite Wrestler _____

I like ☐ Good Guys ☐ Bad Guys

I'd Like As My Pen Pal:

☐ Boys ☐ Girls ☐ Anyone

You Have My Permission To Print My
Picture.

Age _____

Please Sign Your Name



RONNY JAMES (15)
63 Bayview Place
Massapequa, NY 11758
Enjoys sports. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



LARRY SOLOMON (12)
98-41 65 Avenue
Rego Park, NY 11374
Likes sports. Bruno
Sammartino his
favorite. Likes good
guys. Girls for PP's.



BETTE BURNHAM (14)
55 College Avenue
Gorham, ME 04038
Enjoys swimming.
Bruno Sammartino her
favorite. Likes good
guys. Boys for PP's.



DIANE DUNN (18)
9124 Ellison Dr.
Ferguson, MO 63136
Likes swimming. Terry
Funk her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



GINGER DRUMMOND (16)
2707 Maine St.
Quincy, IL 62301
Likes swimming. Terry
Funk her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



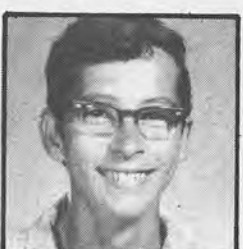
MARTY FEOLA (12)
Rear 539 E. Market St.
Scranton, PA 18509
Likes karate. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good guys. Girls
for pen pals.



FRANK GREENE (18)
64 7th Ave. Apt. 1D
Newark, NJ 07104
Likes sports. Bruno
Sammartino his
favorite. Likes good
guys. Girls for PP's.



FRED MAHONEY (15)
11 Linda Lane
Central Islip, NY 11722
Enjoys football. Bruno
Sammartino his favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



ENRIQUE SANCHEZ (16)
3301 NW 101 St.
Miami, FL 33147
Likes music. Jack
Brisco his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



BRUCE VALLELUNGO (10)
3717 Decomine Drive
Chalmette, LA 70043
Likes football. Dick
the Bruiser his
favorite. Likes good
and bad guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



ISAIAH FLORENCE (12)
11 MOUNTAIN STREET
Sharon, MA 02067
Enjoys hockey. Crusher
Blackwell his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.



KEVIN FISHER (11)
701 N. Lee Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
Likes art. Terry Funk
his favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.

N PALS



CARLA YORK (15)
9826 Trumpet
Houston, TX 77078
Likes skating.
Ernie Ladd her
favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.



LINDA MILLER (19)
Route 8
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Likes water skiing
Wahoo McDaniel her
favorite. Likes good
guys. Boys for PP's.



KATHLEEN NIHILL (12)
1011 E. 37 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11210
Likes swimming. Ivan
Putski her favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



JEFF JACOBUS (13)
221 Ellis Parkway
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Likes baseball.
Bruiser his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



HARRY BARNES (16)
2974 Wilson Park
Harris, PA 17104
Likes pinball. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



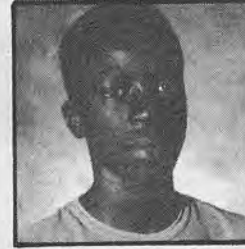
JOSEPH OLMOS (22)
1732 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Likes soccer. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



JAMES GLEWWE (23)
3254 Harriet Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55408
Likes sports. Verne
Gagne his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



VINCE NOREN (13)
314 E. Park Street
Taylorville, IL 62568
Enjoys bowling. Crusher
his favorite. Likes
good guys. Anyone for
pen pals.



STEVE LYNES (15)
Box 2432 Finlayson St.
Nassau, Bahamas
Likes basketball.
Paul Jones his
favorite. Likes good
and bad guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



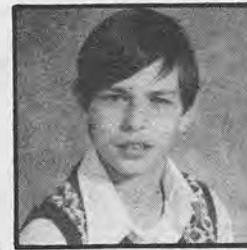
DARRELL DALTON (13)
5300 Augusta Rd. Apt. 41
Greenville, SC 29605
Like sbaseball. The
Blackjacks his favorites.
Likes bad guys. Boys
for pen pals.



LISA HEMBREE (15)
Route 1
Frankfort, KY 40601
Enjoys sports. Chief
Strongbow her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



JERRY NORTON (18)
Route 1 Box 301
Morristown, TN 37814
Likes sports. Paul
Jones his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



BILLY BARTEE (13)
3701 34 Street
Mt. Rainier, MD 20822
Enjoys football. Tony
Parisi his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



KAY OLIVER (16)
426 Daniel Street
Royston, GA 30662
Likes swimming.
Paul Jones her
favorite. Likes
good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



GLENN CUTLER (12)
6 Cambridge Road
Edison, NJ 08817
Enjoys sports.
Ivan Putski his
favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Anyone for PP's



PETE ANDERSON (12)
Route 2 Box 510
Selmer, TN 38375
Enjoys music. Ric
Flair his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



ROXANNE HEARD (16)
1161 No. Carter Rd.
Decatur, GA 30030
Likes music. Dusty
Rhodes her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



GLENNA BERGMAN (18)
303 So. Main St.
Rochelle, IL 61068
Likes bowling. Greg
Gagne her favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



CYNTHIA PETIGO (14)
245 W. Morris
Lombard, IL 60148
Likes to collect
pictures. Tommy Rich
her favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Anyone for PP's.



TREY CHANDLER (10)
Route 3
Bishopville, SC 29110
Likes sports. Mighty
Igor his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.

HOTSEAT

ANDRE THE GIANT: “THEY’LL NEVER LET ME BE CHAMPION!”

HES THE WORLD'S tallest athlete, a hero around the globe. Towering at 7-4, his physique awes all who see him. Yet, he is not a curiosity of nature, but rather a superb athlete, blessed with a lumbering grace guaranteed to confound all opponents. This Frenchman is powerful, agile, a brilliant tactician and beloved throughout wrestling. He's Andre the Giant.

Q: Welcome to the “Hotseat,” Andre.

A: I've been on before. I know the rules.

Q: I guess most of our fans are most concerned about your announced intentions of going for the title. How would you sum up your success so far.

A: They'll never let me be champion! It disgusts me too much to talk about it. You'd think I'd deserve some consideration for all I've done for this sport. But when it comes down to it, they're all against me. It's just like the battle royals. In battle royals, all the wrestlers unite to get me out first. They figure I'm the biggest threat, and they're right. So out I go when 10 guys get together to throw me out. I used to be top

man in the history of battle royals. Now, I'm the prime victim. I've lost over \$200,000 since they started ganging up on me.

Q: And you feel this is preventing you from winning a title?

“
**They've set up my
schedule to make it
impossible for me to be
at my best for the
championship matches.
Even if I did win the
title, they'd never let me
keep it.**
”

A: Yes, now they're doing the same thing with the title. They've set up my schedule to make it impossible for me to be at my best for the championship matches. They have it set up so I wrestle the top men—the ones who hurt the

most—right before I get my title shot. Of course, I'm not at my best. Of course, I'm not champion. Even if I did win the title, they'd never let me keep it.

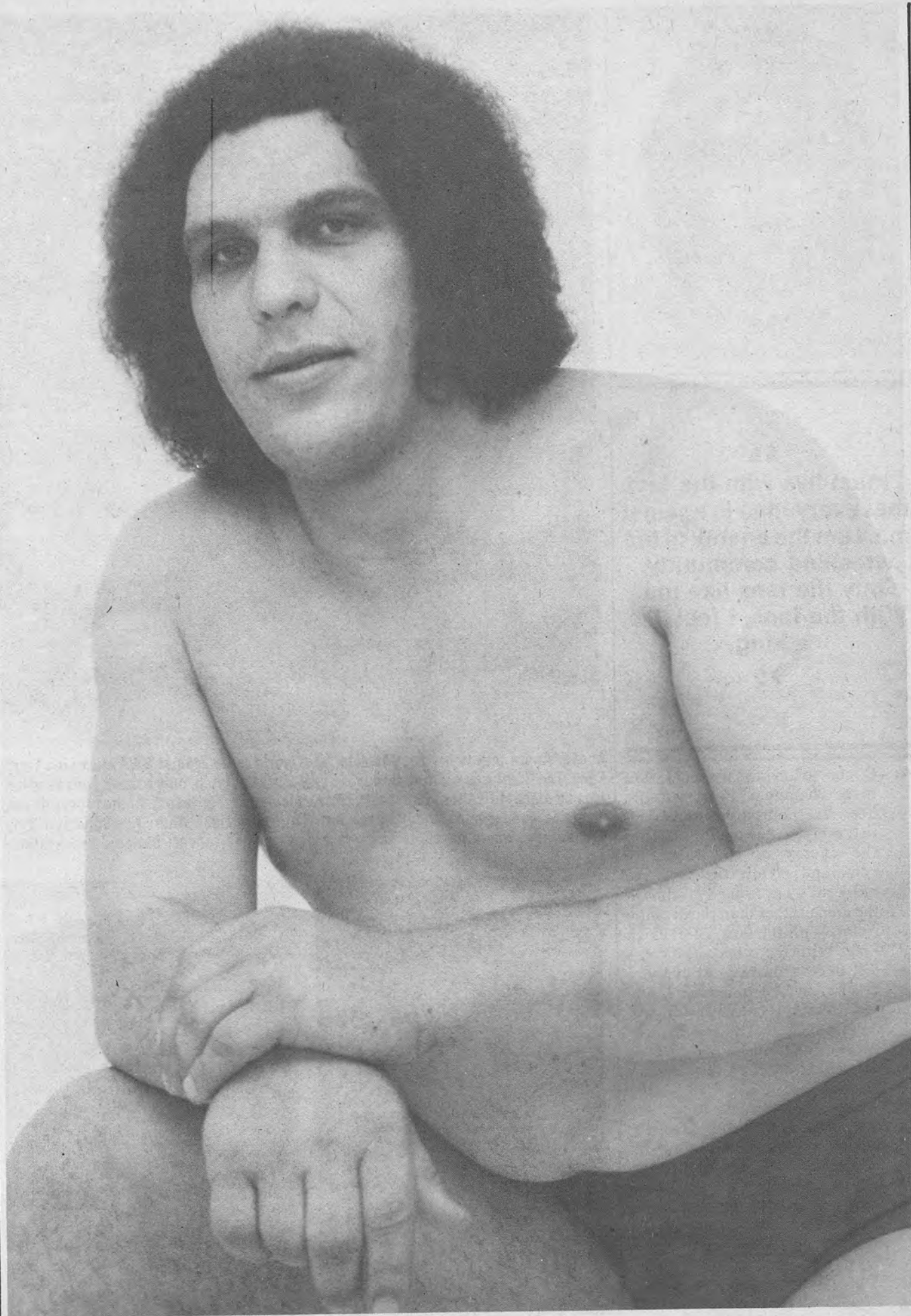
Q: Are you referring to your match with AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel?

A: No, but it proves my point, doesn't it? I won the title and they made up some absurd ruling as to why I couldn't keep it. It was highway robbery, pure and simple. They did it because they don't want me to have the title.

Q: Why don't they want you to have the title?

A: I don't like to answer because it sounds like bragging. But the truth of the matter is I'm too good. They fear I'll keep the title for years. That means many other wrestlers will not be able to realize their ambition of a championship. So, they get together to keep me out. Just like in the battle royals—once I'm out of the way, then every man thinks he has a chance. I know this sounds like bragging and it embarrasses me to say it. But you demanded the truth as I see it and this is how I see it. Are you satisfied?

Q: Are you satisfied?



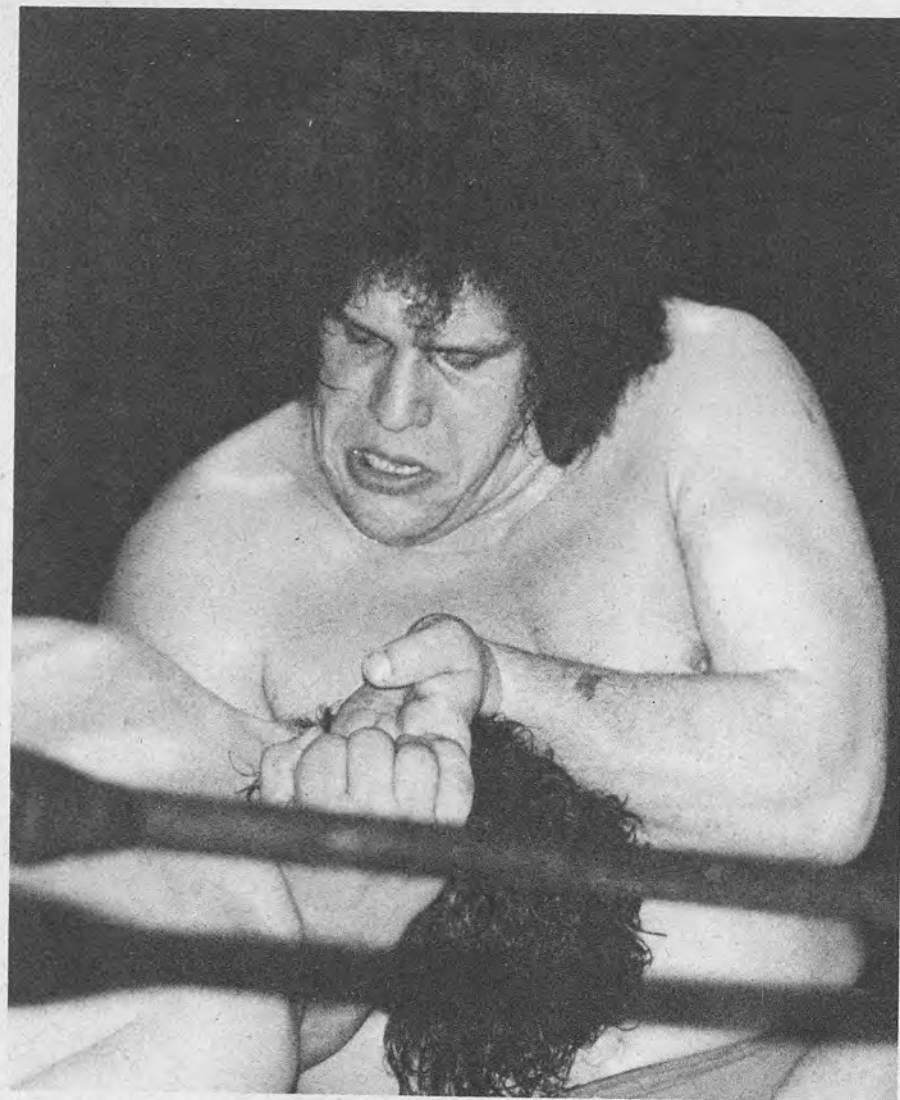


“

I must live with the fact that every man is against me. I am the enemy of the wrestling community.

Only the fans like me. With the fans, I feel like a king.

”



Above: Andre makes his first attempt at a world title, against NWA champion Terry Funk. The Giant was winning throughout most of the match, only to have Funk keep his title by disqualification. **Below left:** In an especially tough match, Andre proves he can meet the challenge of Abdullah the Butcher. **Below right:** Andre has Superstar Billy Graham just where he wants him—face down on the canvas, battered and beaten!

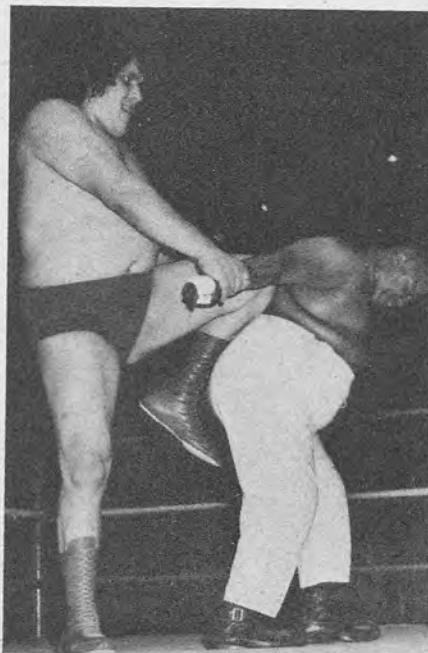
A: Of course I'm not satisfied! I want to be champion. Every wrestler does. Yet, I must live with the fact that every man is against me. I am the enemy of the wrestling community. Only the fans like me. That's why I spend my time in the arena rather than the dressing room. With the fans, I feel like a king. With the other wrestlers, I feel like an outcast. At times, I despise them. I understand why they feel this way. But I still despise them.

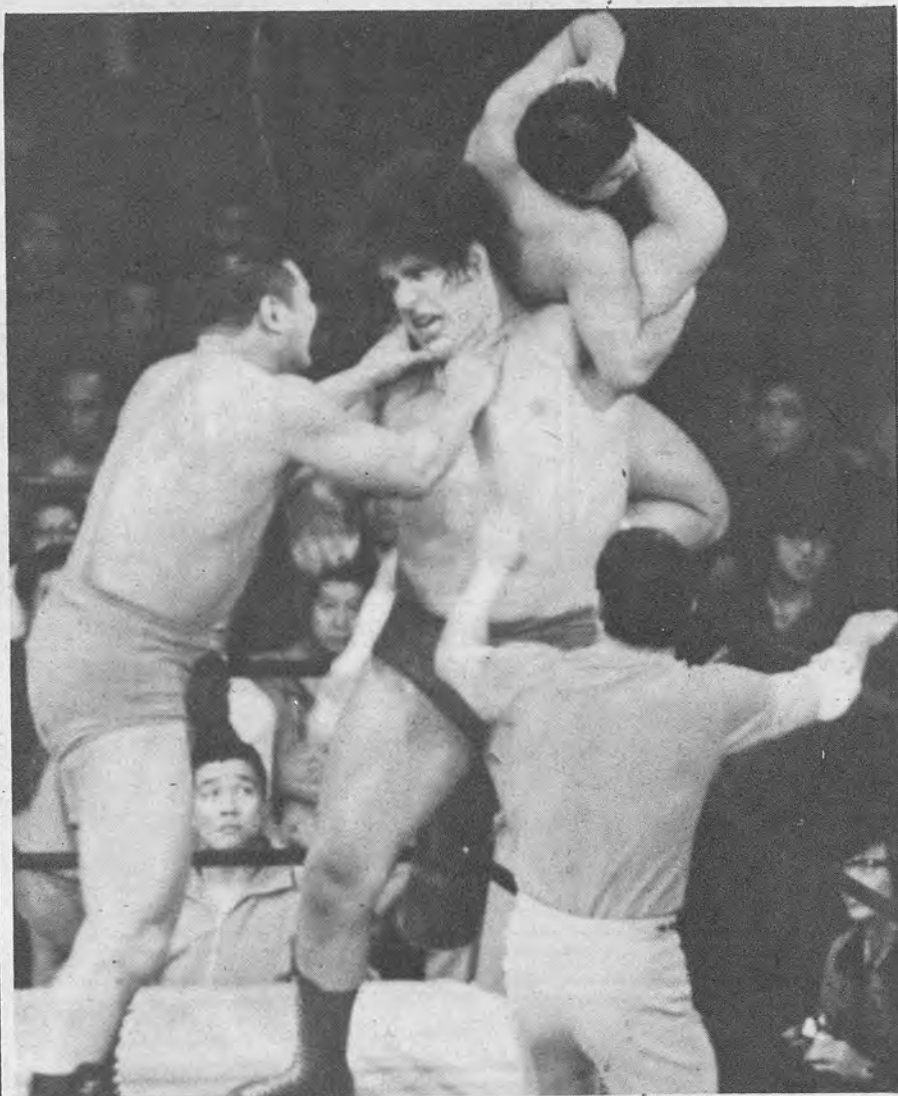
Q: Well, I don't think anyone would begrudge you that very human reaction.

A: Athletes shouldn't say things like that in public. It's undignified. For the most part, I admire and respect my colleagues. Many have helped me through some very rough times. But this is another rough time, and no one can afford to help me. A man alone gets angry.

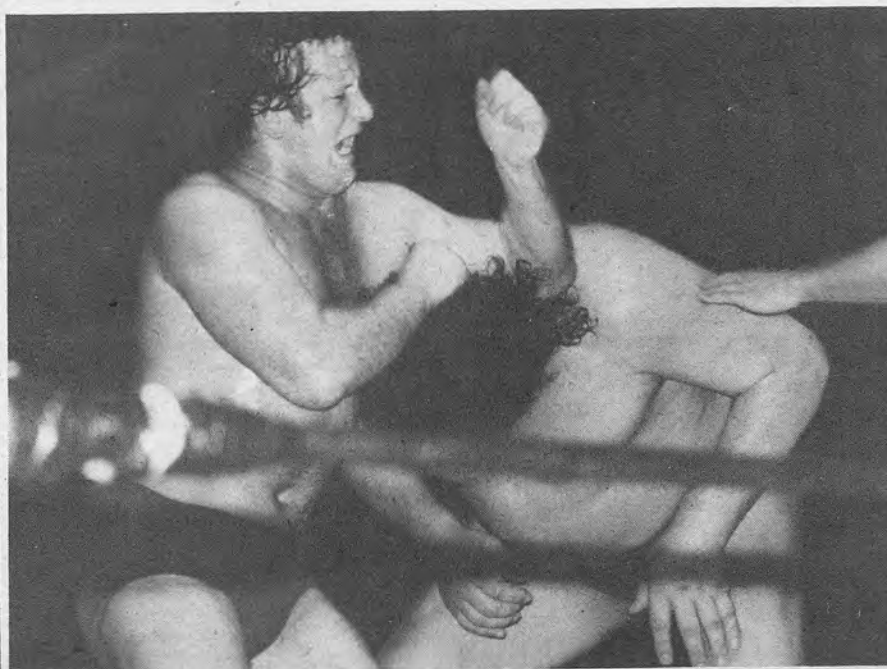
Q: Are you angry enough to quit?

A: I've considered it. I could have an





Above: One of Andre's biggest complaints is the treatment he receives in Battle Royals. It seems most wrestlers are intent on eliminating Andre from the action first. Below: Terry Funk tries to stop a raging Andre the Giant, but this maneuver will be futile in the long run. This match was one of the few times in which Andre was allowed to have a chance at a title.



“

There's nothing comparable in acting to wrestling. Acting is work.

If I don't act again, I won't miss it. If I give up wrestling, I'll lose part of my soul!

”

acting career any time I want it. There's some talk about making "Bigfoot" into a weekly series. I could get the part, work for four years, and be set for life. But I love wrestling. There are moments when a maneuver is executed perfectly that is the biggest thrill in the world. There's nothing comparable in acting. Acting is work. If I don't act again, I won't miss it. If I give up wrestling, I'll lose part of my soul. Money isn't that important to me.

Q: Have you given yourself a time limit, so you can make the final decision by a certain date?

A: I've had seven "final" dates so far. I'm too confused now to decide. I'm so confused, I may have another "final" date by tomorrow. I just don't know. We're talking about my life now.

Q: I think the interview can end now. Would you like to add anything?

A: I've said too much already.

Q: Well, thank you for the interview.

A: I'm glad it's over. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO SAMMARTINO



1—KEN PATERA

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: TERRY FUNK



1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—ANDRE THE GIANT



2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO

Tag Teams



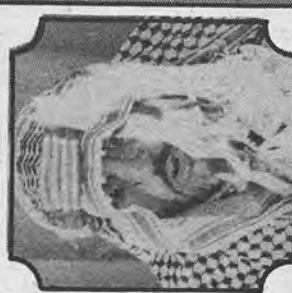
1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS



Most Hated Wrestlers



1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



2—THE SHEIK



2—STAN STASIAK



3—BARON VON
RASCHKE



4—NIKOLAI
VOLKOFF

- 5—STAN HANSEN
- 6—BOBO BRAZIL
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—BRUISER
BRODIE
- 9—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
- 10—BOB
BACKLUND



2—BILLY
ROBINSON



3—LARRY HENNIG

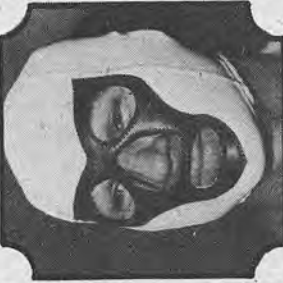


4—PETER MAIVIA

- 5—RAY STEVENS
- 6—PEDRO
MORALES
- 7—BARON VON
RASCHKE
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—CHRIS TAYLOR



2—JACK BRISCO



3—MR. WRESTLING
II

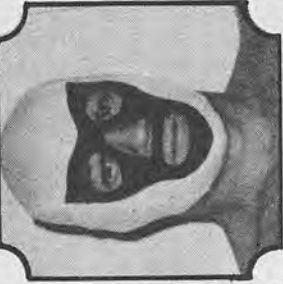


4—SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM

- 5—PAUL JONES
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—HARLEY RACE
- 8—RIC FLAIR
- 9—ROCKY
JOHNSON
- 10—JERRY LAWLER



3—MIL MASCARAS



4—MR. WRESTLING
II



5—DUSTY RHODES

- 6—MIGHTY IGOR
- 7—WAHOO
McDANIEL
- 8—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
- 9—ROCKY
JOHNSON
- 10—IVAN PUTSKI



2—STRONGBOW
& WHITE WOLF

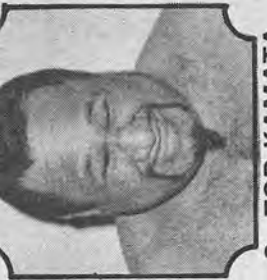


3—BOBBY DUNCUM
& BLACKJACK
LANZA



4—GOLIATH &
BLACK GORDMAN

- 5—THE VALIANT
BROTHERS
- 6—THE
EXECUTIONERS
- 7—GREG GAGNE &
JIM BRUNZELL
- 8—THE HOLLY-
WOOD BLONDS
- 9—MIKE GRAHAM
& KEN LUCAS
- 10—THE ROYAL
KANGAROOS



3—TOR KAMATA



4—STAN HANSEN



5—BARON VON
RASCHKE

- 6—STAN STASIAK
- 7—SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM
- 8—NICK
BOCKWINKLE
- 9—MR. FUJI
- 10—THE ASSASSIN



When Terry Funk would go out to defend his title, he'd see Jack Brisco at ringside furiously taking notes. It astonished Funk to the point where he wrestled like a lunatic! The reason for Brisco's appearance? Read it in the ex-champion's own words

JACK BRISCO IS DRIVING INSIDE WRESTLING IS TO B

BY JACK BRISCO

THE MOST IMPORTANT thing I learned following Terry Funk from match to match is the champion trembles at anything he doesn't understand. My notebook is more terrifying to him than any opponent he has ever met.

When **INSIDE WRESTLING** asked me to report on a series of Terry's title bouts, I was a little hesitant. After all, I'm not a professional reporter but a wrestler. Writing should be left to men like Randy Gordon. Believe me, if I knew what the sight of me scribbling notes would do to Funk, I'd have paid **INSIDE WRESTLING** to let me do it.

I wish you could have seen Terry's face the first time he saw me at the press table. He wrestled worse than I'd ever seen him. It was understandable, since half his attention was devoted to me. He probably couldn't tell you who he wrestled that night, but could tell you every time I lifted up my pen.

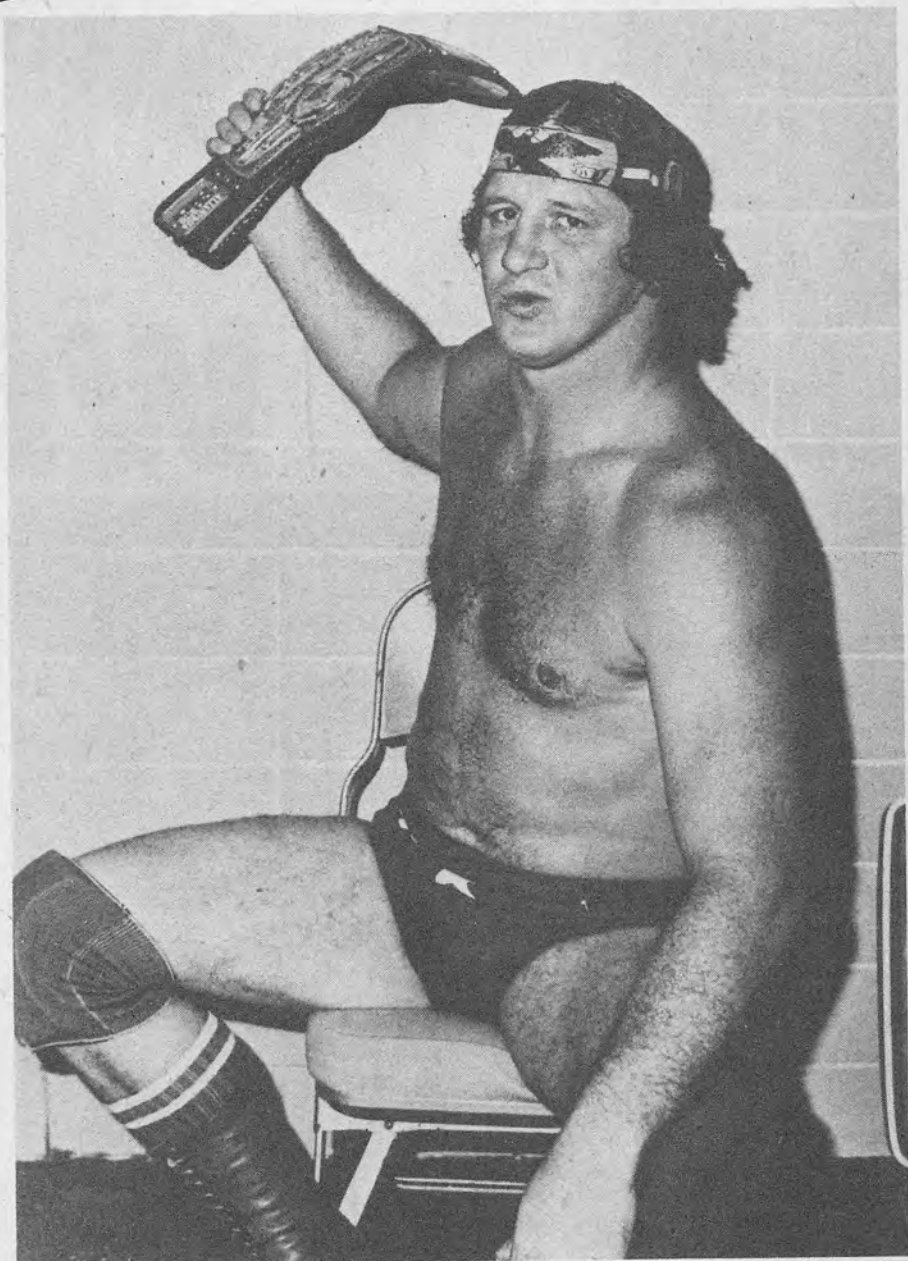
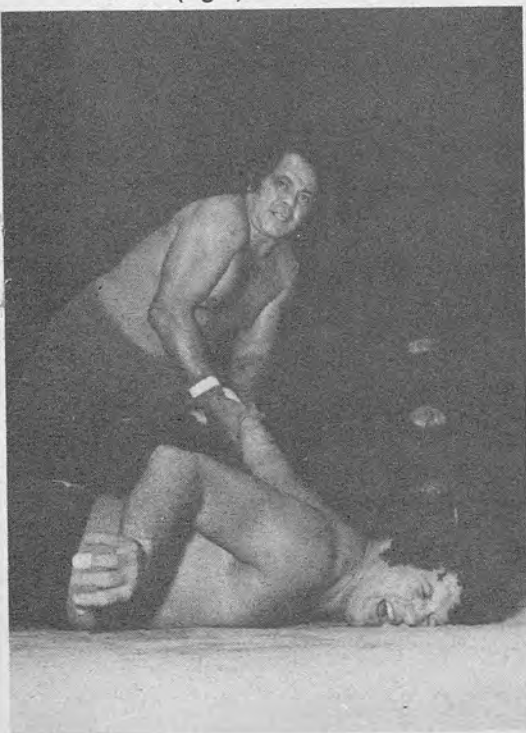
Jose Lothario came close to taking Terry's NWA belt that night. It took luck and a disqualification for Terry to remain champion. (Exclusive coverage of the Funk-Lothario bout appears in this month's issue of **THE WRESTLER**—Ed.) Jose was also a bit puzzled on this evening, and a bit insulted. After all, how would you like to be ignored half the time by your opponent? He later told me it looked to him like Terry was sure I'd been sent there to interfere. Jose's pride was inflamed because Terry thought such a



TERRY FUNK CRAZY....

AND STING LAME!

When I saw Funk wrestle Dusty Rhodes in a Bullrope Match (left, opposite page), he was incredibly bad. Dusty knocked the tar out of him! Against Jose Lothario, it was the same (below). Jose was in charge all the time! I tried to interview Terry, but he told me to "get the hell out of my dressing room!" (right).



thing. Though Jose didn't know what I was doing at ringside, he at least remembered his opponent was Funk, not Brisco.

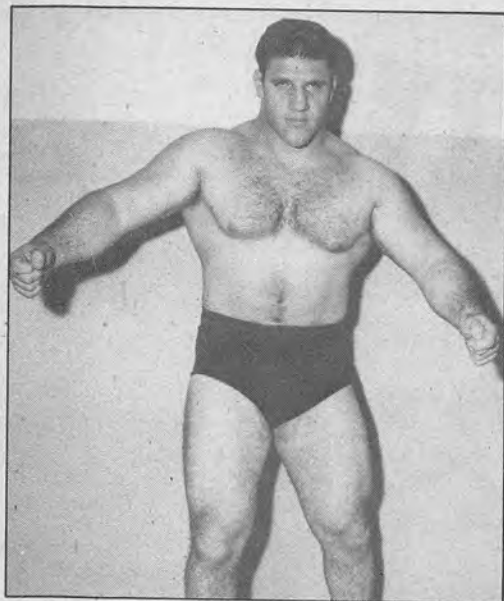
If Terry was surprised to see me at the first match, the second bout almost floored him! He demanded the referee throw me out of the arena. I just held up my press pass and grinned at Funk. Even the champion can't make a reporter leave.

"You can't even spell!" Funk shouted at me after discovering the

reason I was there. "This has to be some sort of trick. **INSIDE WRESTLING** has always hated me! Brisco has always hated me! They're plotting to make me lose! I won't wrestle unless Brisco leaves!"

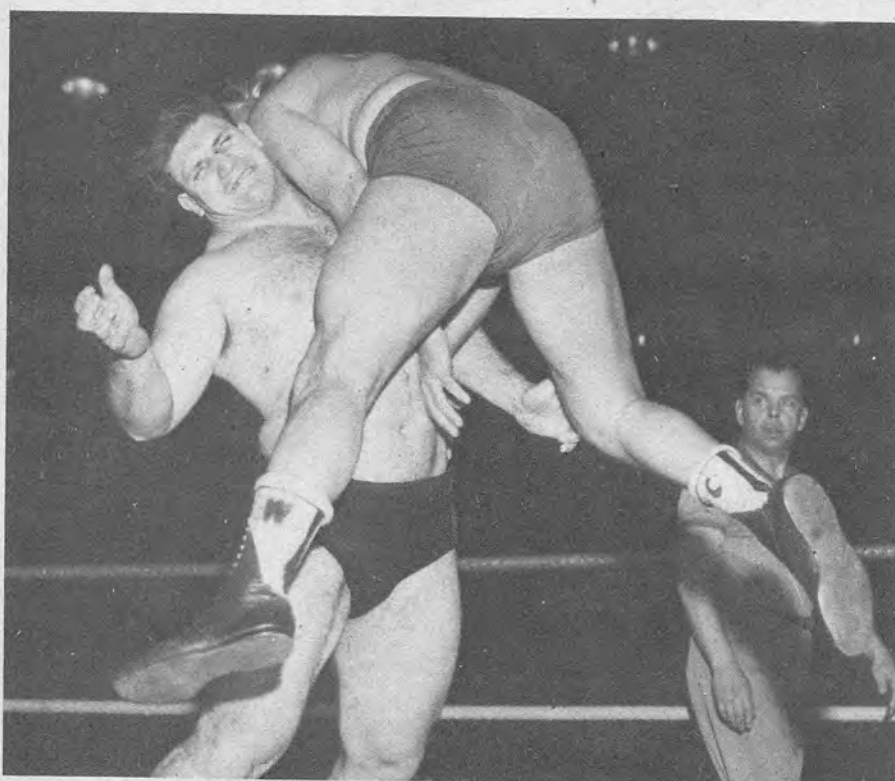
"Until you wrestle," the referee pointed out, "you won't get paid. Brisco stays and you wrestle, unless you'd like us to give your purse to a substitute."

Funk wrestled. The man seethed
(Continued on page 54)



BRUNO SAMMARTINO (1963)

WHO WOULD



Young Bruno Sammartino depends on brute strength to send Chet Wallick high in the air. He's successful because his strength is unequalled by any of his challengers. After a match, the young man would be exhausted, having used all his energy to defeat his foe. However, young men don't worry about conserving strength. They don't have to.

A PROUD YOUNG man steps gingerly into the ring. Then the wise experienced veteran of many wars climbs through the ropes. One of them is Bruno Sammartino, the young man who has just won the WWF championship from Buddy Rogers. The other man is also Bruno Sammartino, the matured living legend who has gone through two reigns as champion of the WWF. Except for a facial resemblance, the two men are not alike.

Fans are confused as to which man they should cheer for. They are awed by both. They love both and cannot decide which man they want to see as the winner.

Of course, the situation described above can never happen. It is impossible for a man to confront a vision of his past. What has been can never be again. A moment of time cannot be frozen, then taken out to be confronted at some later date. Time is like a wave in the ocean; it is always in motion, it is fluid, it cannot be recaptured.

But for the moment, let us suspend the laws of the universe governing the dimension of time. Let us assume we can capture two moments of time, set

Has Bruno Sammartino gotten older and better? Or did the legendary champion peak during his first title reign? We asked top wrestlers in the world what they believe. Their answers are sure to surprise you

S BRUNO SAMMARTINO (1977)

WIN?

them up simultaneously, and see what would happen. Let us say we can match the Bruno Sammartino of 1963 with the Bruno Sammartino of 1977.

The scene is Madison Square Garden in New York City, the Mecca of wrestling for the entire world. More than 27,000 fans have crowded into the arena to see this historic event. Tickets were sold out weeks in advance. This is one match no one wants to miss.

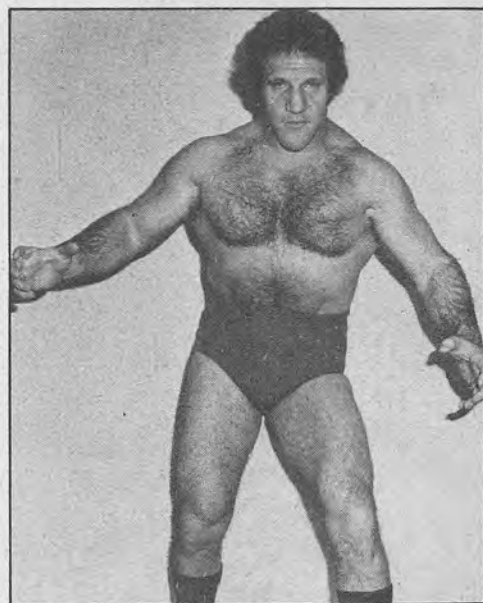
The young Bruno waits nervously in his dressing room. Though he has arrived at the top of his profession—the championship of the WWF—he is still unsure of himself. There are many opponents who have made it clear they plan to take his title as soon as they can. The man he is matched against on this night will certainly be the toughest man he has ever faced in his short career. There is every possibility he could lose.

In another dressing room, the matured Bruno Sammartino relaxes to pass the time before his match. He quietly jokes with his manager, Arnold Skoaland, about the many times he has wrestled in this arena. When he was young, he was in awe of the place. Now he considers it a second home.

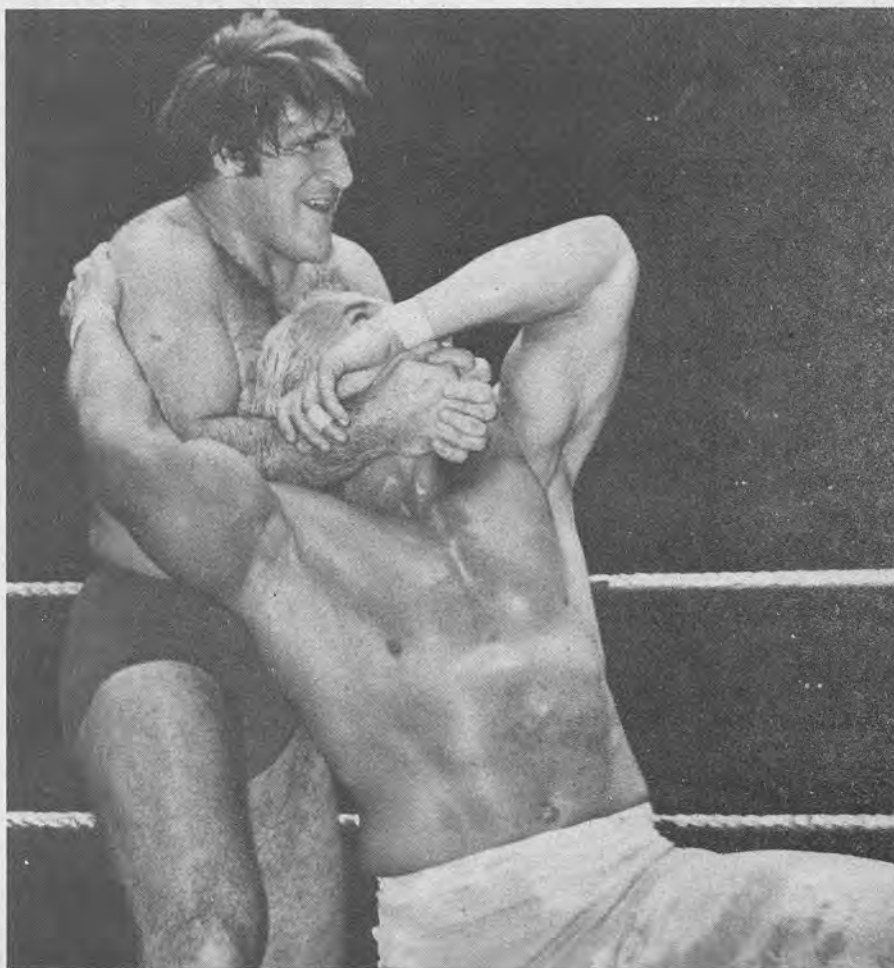
One of the security guards stops by the dressing room. "Good evening, Mr. Sammartino. How does it look for tonight?"

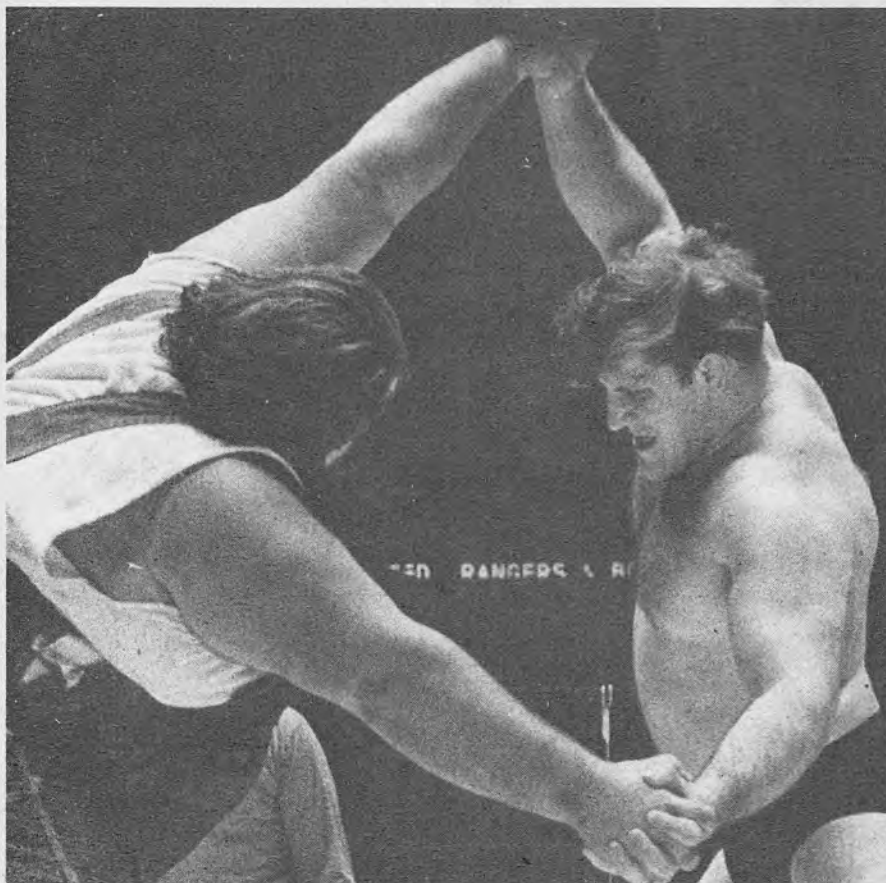
Bruno smiles at the man who he has known for many years. "There shouldn't be any surprises. He's young and inexperienced. Don't get me wrong—he's very good. He'll get better

(Let us suppose a man could go back in time and confront his younger self. What would happen? If that man were Bruno Sammartino, the veteran champion who has held the WWF title longer than anyone in history, and he confronted himself as a young wrestler who had just won the best, which man would win? Would the younger Bruno, whose strength was legendary, be the winner? Would the matured Sammartino, a champion in all regards, come out victorious? Just who would win this dream match between the young Bruno and the veteran Bruno? The story below attempts to answer that question.)

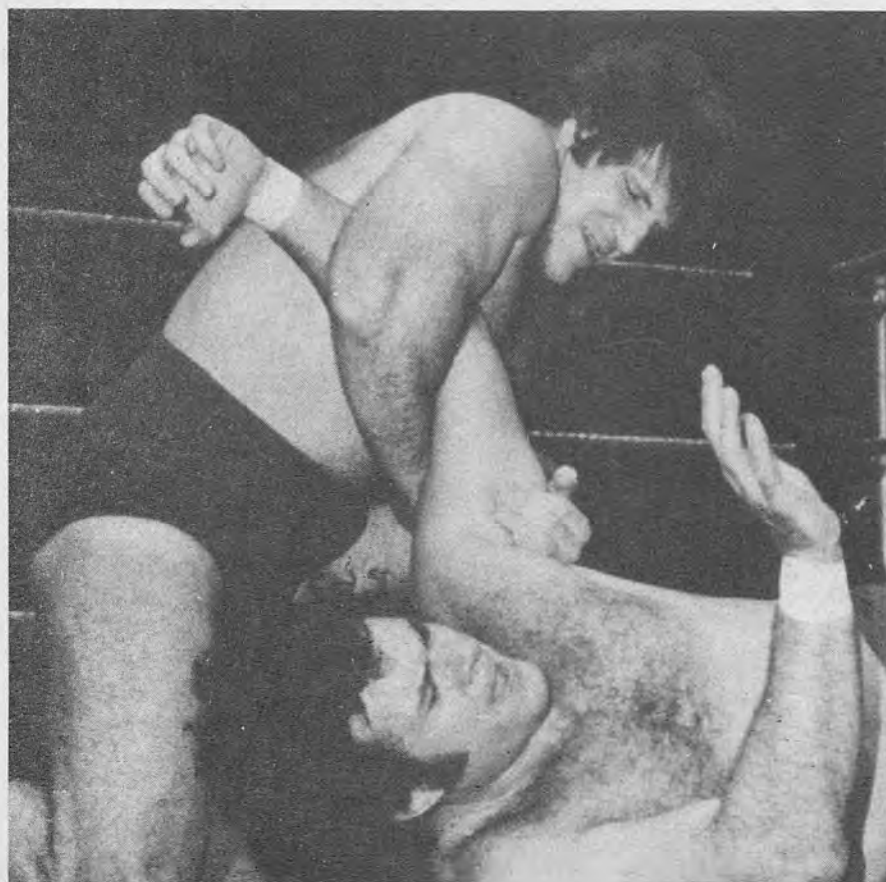


Bruno's powerful arms clutch Billy Graham around the head and trap the powerful grappler. This maneuver employed as much cunning as strength, the sign of an experienced grappler. An older man learns to conserve his power. He must learn this.





Above right: Bruno Sammartino traps Killer Kowalski in an agonizing bearhug early in both men's career. Above: Sammartino's early battles against the gargantuan Haystacks Calhoun have become part of wrestling legend. Below: It takes all of Bruno Sammartino's experience to ensnare Spiros Arion in a classic match during the champion's second WWWF title reign.



with more experience."

A reporter ventures back to the dressing room of the young Bruno and knocks on the door. The nervous young champion opens the portal and lets the journalist in.

"What do you think will happen tonight?" asks the reporter.

"I really don't know," replies the young Sammartino. "He's the best. No one can question that. But I think I have a very good chance of winning. Let me explain. He was once a great scientific wrestler. But then he kept facing opponents who were brawlers, so he became a brawler too. And I think that hurts him."

"There's another thing. I'm in my prime, physically. Face it, he has passed that point. But don't get me wrong, he's still very good. He has the battle scars to prove it—like that neck injury. He bounced back from that one pretty well. I just would never have allowed myself to get into that kind of situation in the first place!"

"Still, no one can deny his greatness. It is not going to be an easy match tonight, but I think I have a good chance of winning, if luck and good fortune are on my side."

The reporter left the young Sammartino and went over to the matured wrestler's dressing room. But, unlike the security guard, the journalist was stopped at the door by Arnold Skoaland. "Mr. Sammartino does not like to give interviews before a match. He never has. It breaks the concentration." The reporter went back to the main arena to await the match.

The 27,000 fans have waited patiently for the match to begin. They are not sure which wrestler they should cheer for. While they love the matured grappler, they also have great respect for the young man who easily won the title from Buddy Rogers.

Both men walk in at the same time from opposite ends of the arena, something which is highly unusual. But this is to be a highly unusual
(Continued on page 58)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE STORY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BEHIND THE HEADLINE ★



Volume 1 Number 9

TUE 23 WED 24 THURS 25
FRI 26
SAT 27

FACES FINE, SUSPENSION

Date it = Apr 63 Bruiser On Carpet

BY GEORGE PUSCAS

Dick the Bruiser, the terror of the wrestling ring, was given a new match Wednesday—this one against Dave Gudelsky, chairman of the State Athletic Commission.

Gudelsky said he would call Bruiser (Richard Afflis) on the carpet next week to explain his actions in a bar-room brawl last Monday night.

Bruiser, scheduled to wrestle suspended Lion tackle Alex Karras at Olympia Saturday, tussled with Karras and customers at the Lindell Bar.

HE WAS subdued by eight policemen and arrested. He faces a court trial on an assault charge next Monday.

Gudelsky said that he might fine or suspend Bruiser.

"I don't think Karras was at fault," the commissioner told the Free Press from his Muskegon office. "But I want to call them both in. I just don't like this kind of monkey business."

"Innocent people could have been hurt in that fight. This time things have gone too far."

"Just two weeks ago I fined The Bruiser \$50 for

wrestling outside the ring. Maybe we'll have to get tougher."

GUDELSKY earlier was quoted as saying that he might also fine and suspend Karras, who will be making a return to the ring Saturday night after three years of retirement.

"I think now," said Gudelsky, "that Afflis went out looking for trouble. I'm more interested in him."

Gudelsky said he probably would delay his hearing until after Bruiser's appearance in Recorder's Court at 2 p.m. Monday.

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE to relive one moment in your life, which one would you choose? For Dick the Bruiser, the answer would be easy. He would choose to relive the Tuesday night he tussled with Alex Karras in a Detroit bar. And he would not do it again!

That one incident changed the entire course of Bruiser's career. He had been doing well until April 23, 1963, the night he stepped into a bar owned by Karras, the football player turned wrestler. The moment Bruiser walked in, all hell broke loose.

He and Karras had been scheduled to have a regular match the following Saturday night. But their encounter in the bar was far worse than anything which could happen in a ring. There were no rules in this scuffle.

By the time the smoke had cleared, Bruiser, Karras, and the bartender had been seriously injured. Eight riot policemen had to be called out, and one bystander had his hand broken. It was not a pretty sight.

The repercussions of this night were extensive. The Michigan State Athletic Commission would eventually ban Bruiser from wrestling in Detroit for five years. One of the policemen brought suit against Bruiser for \$15,000 in damages. Bruiser was forced to contribute \$400 to a charity fund to have the assault and battery charges against him dropped.

But worst of all, Bruiser had to face an enraged Alex Karras four nights after the scuffle in the bar. Both Karras and Bruiser were out for revenge in their sanctioned match. And they both turned it into a rough, vicious battle, which Karras eventually won.

If Bruiser could relive one day in his life, it would be the day he stepped into the Lindell A Bar. He would probably go for a walk instead! □



RUMOR vs. FACT

Day after day, we receive letters asking if certain rumors are true. We hear other rumors in the dressing room, as wrestlers themselves wonder what is truth and what is slander. This column is dedicated to tearing away the falsehoods and revealing the truth, regardless of whom it may hurt

RUMOR: In the attempt to regain his AWA title, Verne Gagne is growing ever more desperate. Recently, his training has been devoted to learning illegal tactics. This means Verne will throw away many years of scientific honor to wrestle dirty in hopes of winning the title.

FACT: Verne has no intentions of becoming a rulebreaker. This rumor was started by people watching Verne help his son, Greg. The elder Gagne is aiding his son in combatting dirty maneuvers. This was where people saw Gagne employing illegal tactics. Verne would never use those tactics outside the gymnasium.



VERNE GAGNE

RUMOR: Eddie Graham sought the NWA presidency only to set up his younger brother, Superstar Billy Graham, for the title. Billy spent a fortune convincing the NWA board of directors to appoint Eddie, including a sleazy hate campaign directed at other candidates. Superstar is sure to be NWA champion by July.

FACT: Eddie Graham is continually embarrassed by Superstar's erratic behavior and rulebreaking tactics. He continually has attempted to keep Superstar from his jurisdiction. There was a severe rift in the family when Superstar decided to seek the NWA title.



EDDIE GRAHAM

RUMOR: The emotional strain of wrestling top competition with a back in questionable condition has been too much for Bruno Sammartino. He is bordering on a mental breakdown. He stares blankly into space and responds to questions with statements like, "Stan Stasiak is the greatest wrestler in the world."

FACT: Sammartino, according to the reports of knowledgeable observers and medical specialists, is in fine shape in all areas. These rumors have been traced to Stan Stasiak, attempting to discredit the man he could not defeat in combat.



BRUNO VS. STASIAK



TONY GAREA

RUMOR: The success of Dean Ho and Ken Mantell has been difficult for Ho's former tag team partner, Tony Garea, to accept. Tony's confidence has been shaken; Ho's success has been taken as a betrayal. Garea is currently asking infamous rulebreakers to team with him for the express purpose of defeating Ho and Mantell.

FACT: Tony is delighted with Dean's success and often gives Mantell advice on how to work best with Ho. This rumor was started when Harley Race threatened to defeat Mantell and Ho with "the last person you'd expect!" While Harley has still to name the man, many people assumed that could only mean Garea. Tony angrily denies this.



WAHOO McDANIEL

RUMOR: Union College in Schenectady, New York, has offered Wahoo McDaniel over \$85,000 a year to coach wrestling and football. Wahoo, whose doctors have cautioned him against wrestling much longer, is on the verge of accepting the offer.

FACT: Wahoo has never heard of Union College nor about any coaching post. As for his giving up wrestling, McDaniel declares, "No one, including some quack doctors, will tell me when to quit! I'll wrestle forever!"



SPOILER

RUMOR: There is a heartbreaking reason Spoiler wrestles so ruthlessly. During World War II, his father came upon a bombed orphanage in the Phillipines. The orphans were badly burned, many hanging to life by a thread. Spoiler's father aided the children, although most lost limbs, or sight, or suffered devastating emotional trauma. Over the years, Spoiler's family has given all they could to help these people, now grown but still physical and emotional cripples. Spoiler gives most of the money he earns wrestling to these people.

FACT: Every cent Spoiler earns he keeps for himself. This totally fictitious tale was made up by a promoter to stop demands Spoiler be banned.



WHITE WOLF VS. EXECUTIONER

RUMOR: Billy White Wolf really hates the fans. He saw there was a need for a popular wrestler to combat The Executioners and took advantage of the situation. He's been fooling the fans all along!

FACT: White Wolf has never said or done anything to make anyone believe he's not a man who worships the fans. In fact, most people believe Billy needs the cheers of the fans to do his best. This rumor has been traced back to Lou Albano, a man intent on discrediting White Wolf and Billy's partner, Chief Jay Strongbow.



DICK MURDOCK

RUMOR: Jealousy is making Dick Murdoch revert back to his rulebreaking tactics. The popularity and success of his friends is wearing on the grappler. He will either win a major title in the next year or go back to being one of the most hated rulebreakers ever. "I'll either be champion," Murdoch is to have said, "or I'll kill the guys who kept me from it!"

FACT: Murdoch claims to have never said that and does not plan to change his ways. "I was hated for too long," Dick says of the past, "and I wouldn't sacrifice the cheers from fans for anything." □

NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS

Dec 4, 1976

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—

Correspondent: Bob Van Blarcom—

Bruno Sammartino barely scraped by with a victory over Bruiser Brodie. It was tense throughout most of the match since Brodie seemed to be in command. For most of the action, Brodie had the champion squirming on the mat. Whenever Bruno tried to mount a defense, a flurry of illegal kicks and punches would send him down

again. Brodie even went so far as to remove the padding from a turnbuckle, turning the pose into a lethal weapon. If Bruno had been slammed into the turnbuckle, Brodie would have been champion. However, at the last moment, Bruno sidestepped and pushed Brodie's head into the metal post. Brodie collapsed as if he'd been shot. Bruno won the match and retained his title.



Bruiser Brodie is confident before his match against Bruno Sammartino (above). Brodie looked different after the match!



Above: Jack Brisco reels during his unsuccessful attempt to regain the NWA championship. Below: The great Mil Mascaras overwhelmed the always dangerous Hangman.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA—

Correspondent: Pat Hoad—It was another fine display of wrestling virtuosity by Mil Mascaras as he overwhelmed The Hangman. Mil took command from the very beginning with a series of armdrags, armlocks, and perfectly executed flying tackles. Desperately, Hangman lashed out with kicks to Mil's head and belly. Mascaras, momentarily stunned, couldn't prevent being whipped into the turnbuckle. Hangman tried to repeat his success, but Mascaras reversed the maneuver. Now Mascaras went for revenge. Hangman found himself bodyslammed three times in a row. When Mascaras found his victim weak enough, Mil ended the match with a flying body press. Hangman never stood a chance and Mil won the match as his many fans cheered happily.



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—

Correspondent: Tom Monsees—The

Coliseum filled to overflowing for the most important match of the year. Fans could barely contain their excitement as they waited for Jack Brisco's attempt to regain his NWA title from the man who took it from him, Terry Funk. Funk entered the arena first, then Jack made his entrance. The ex-champ barely made it over the ropes when he was slugged by Funk. Jack fell to the concrete floor. When he tried to enter the ring again, Funk brutalized him. It took all of Jack's strength to reverse the momentum and start an attack of his own, but Brisco did it. However, in the ensuing struggle, the referee was knocked unconscious. Terry struggled free of Brisco's assault and grabbed the ringside press table and dragged it into the ring. Brisco took advantage of his foe's weapon before Funk did. Terry had his head slammed into the press table, the fate he had hoped for Brisco! Jack left Terry in the ring, staggered and a bloody mess. The referee was revived later when it was too late to give Jack back his title.

(Continued on page 62)

INSIDE WRESTLING

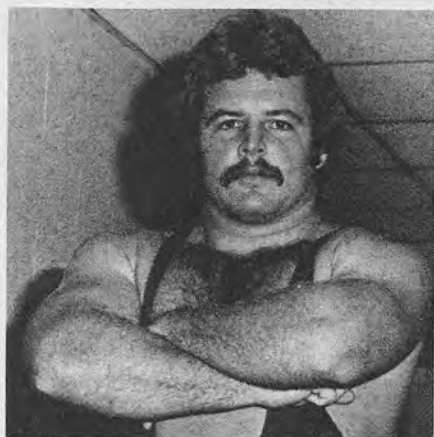
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CAPSULE PROFILE

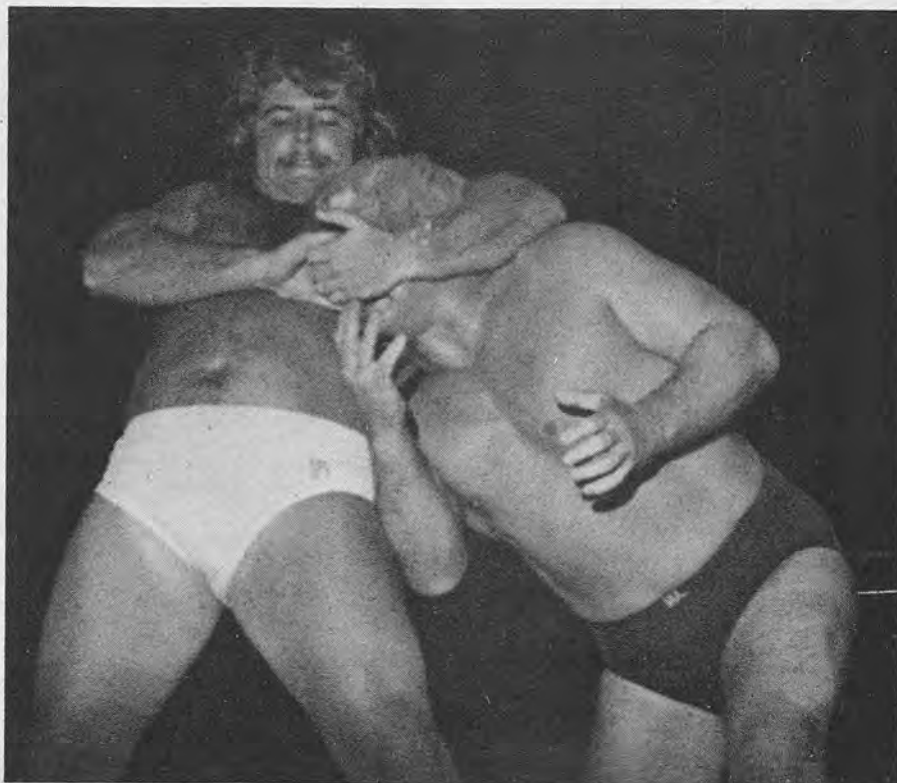
MIKE GRAHAM



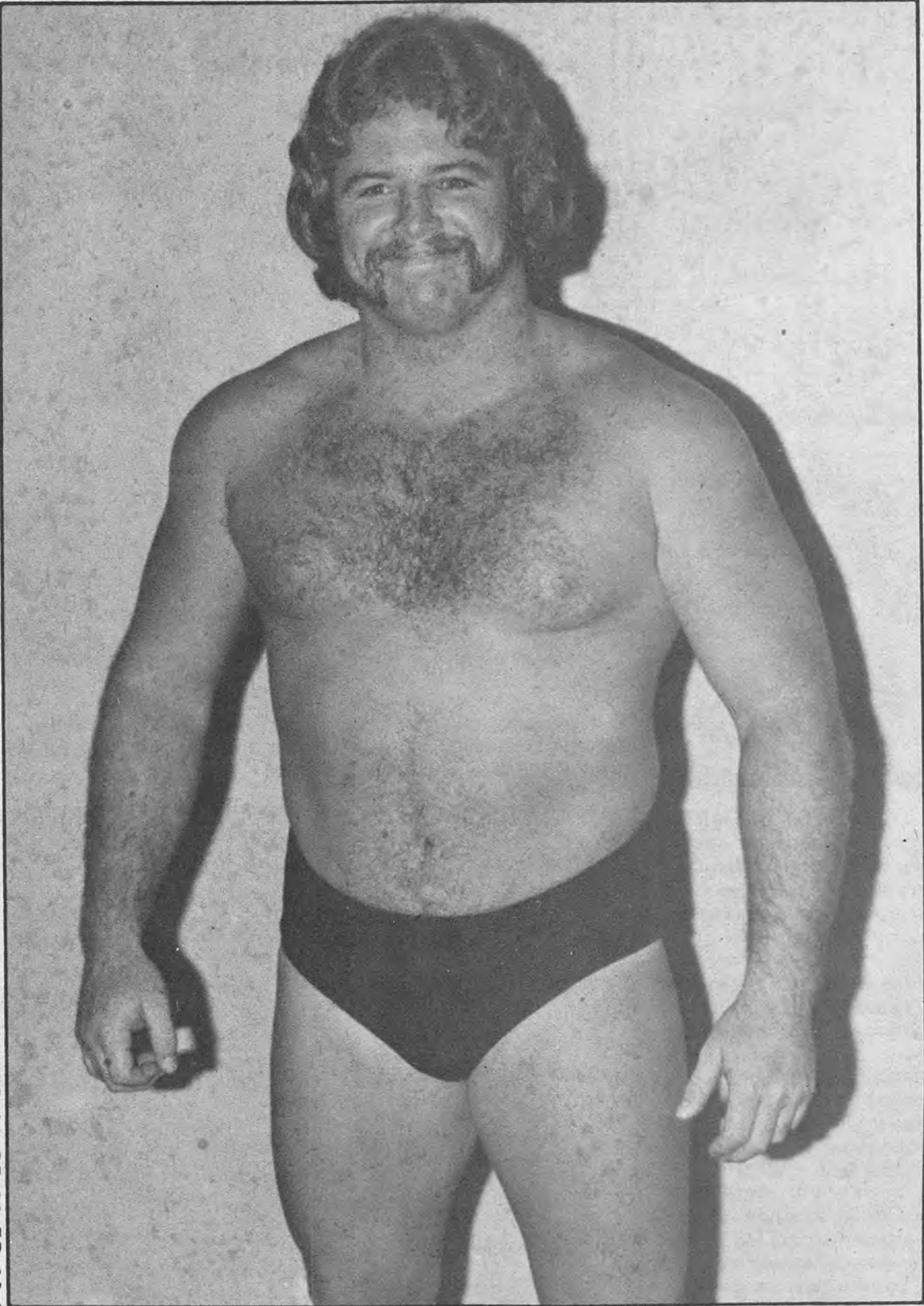
The talented Mike Graham leglocks Juan Caruso (above). A headlock is expertly applied on Rock Hunter (below). Mike is a scientific grappler, but when the going gets rough, he can brawl with the best of them!



THE YOUNGEST MEMBER and greatest hope for one of wrestling's most famous families ... In a very short time, has become one of the most popular stars in the southeast ... Though still quite young, has already developed moves which make many veterans envious (*"I spent most of my youth perfecting wrestling maneuvers. I had to."*) ... A very competitive young man who is eyeing the NWA title now held by Terry Funk ... Will battle to the limit because he feels he has an obligation to do as well as he can for his fans (*"Without my fans, I do not think I would have gotten very far."*) ... When he first started, he depended on his father for help; now he is his own man ... Is equally comfortable as a single or in a tag team ... Generally refuses to use any illegal tactic, unlike some other members of his family ... Most experts look to Mike Graham to represent the new wave of wrestling superstars. □

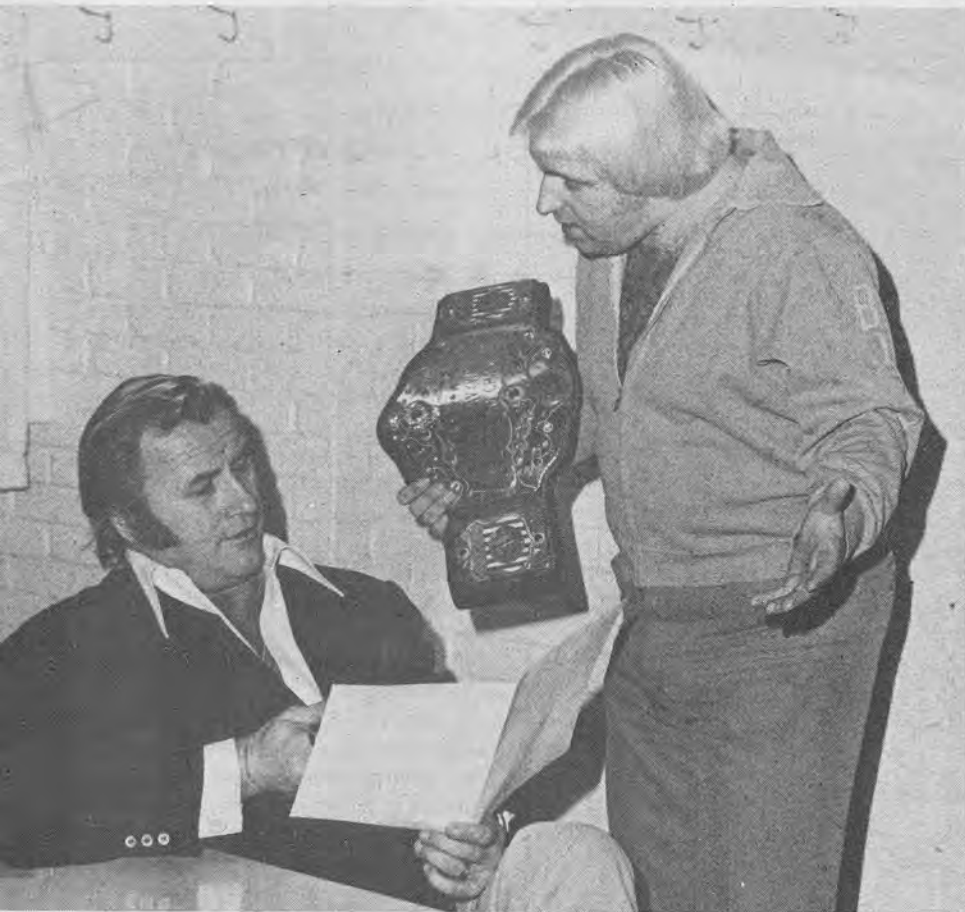


CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



MIKE GRAHAM

HAS NICK BOCKWINKLE SIGNED HIS LIFE AWAY TO BOBBY HEENAN?



Nick Bockwinkel and Manager Bobby Heenan argue a point during the contract signing in which Nick retained Heenan as his manager for life. Bockwinkel must now live with Heenan guiding his every move.

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

THE CONTRACT LAY on the desk. Bobby Heenan's signature was already scrawled in the proper place, the flamboyant script proclaiming an ugly bully. Beneath it, the line for Nick Bockwinkel's signature was still blank.

Bockwinkel's hand, clasping a pen until his knuckles whitened, hovered over the paper like an exhausted bird about to fall into the sea. If the name of Nick Bockwinkel appeared on this line, it would mean the wrestler became little more than Heenan's slave. The pen touched paper and Bockwinkel signed.

Three days later, Heenan called a press conference. Waving the contract high above him, Bobby crowed over what he'd done to Bockwinkel.

"Gentlemen," Heenan exulted, "you all have copies of the contract. Read it at your leisure. It's a legal gem. In it, you'll find Nick Bockwinkel has contracted to having me be his manager for life. There is no loophole for him to escape. Fifteen lawyers assure me this contract can't be broken. The only one who could get out of it is yours truly, and then I'm guaranteed 15 percent of anything Nick might earn (though without me, he won't take in more than a couple of hundred bucks a year).

"One of the things in this contract, page three, paragraph four, states Bockwinkel cannot answer any reporter's questions unless I approve the question. If he breaks this condition, his pay for the next three months goes to me, every last penny. So unless you want Nick to become a pauper, I suggest you don't ask for interviews with the man alone. Whatever Bockwinkel says must first be approved by me. Is that clear?"

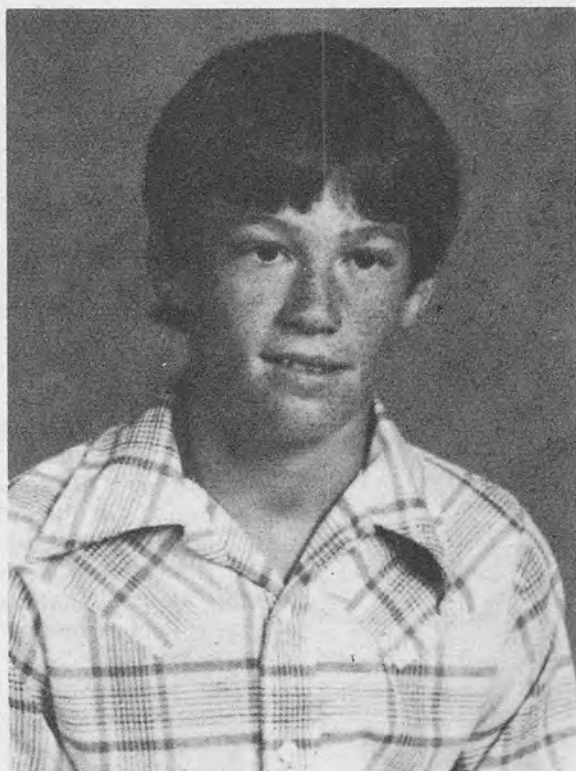
The contract plainly stated Heenan's claims to be true. It went further, virtually making Bockwinkel Heenan's serf. If Nick has to sneeze, he must ask Heenan for permission to grab a tissue. It's inconceivable any man would affix his signature to the deal without a

(Continued on page 64)

The contract has been signed and all is legal. Bobby Heenan owns Nick Bockwinkel, owns him like a slave. This could be the most terrifying incident in wrestling history, more horrible than anything possible in combat

HERE IS W FAN OF TH

**GUEST JUDGE:
VERNE GAGNE**



I think that I should be the would watch it closely, they would see "Wrestling Fan of the Month" that the good points way outnumber the bad ones.

Every time I watch wrestling on TV I am very pleased that these and at neighborhood arenas, I sit in wrestlers work so hard for the pleasure awe as I see the graceful maneuvers of their fans. People should realize that used by the wrestlers. They have to be wrestlers aren't out to hurt people, but very dedicated to the sport and their to please them and to better themselves fans to condition themselves and work in their career. out for long hours as they do.

Some people think wrestlers are just Andy Hodges, a bunch of violent madmen. But if they Greensboro, North Carolina

MANY FANS GIVE scientific wrestlers such as myself credit for being fine athletes. I appreciate it and want to hear it for many more years. But I've always felt people who dismissed the rulebreakers as animals were just a little bit simple.

That's why I'm happy to choose Andy Hodge's entry as this month's winner. Andy has wisdom far beyond his years. He realizes every man who steps through those ropes, no matter how he wrestles is an athlete.

I don't mean to defend rulebreakers. I've spent most of my life trying to defeat them, or humiliate them into either changing their tactics or leaving the sport. I've always regarded my championship years as a challenge to rulebreakers.

Yet, rulebreakers are so dangerous because they are not simply animalistic brawlers. These men work long and hard hours devising ways to break the rules without being caught. They must be respected if they are to be defeated! Underestimating them is just what they want. It's the perfect way for them to do their worst without getting caught. You can't defeat an enemy until you know him.

WRESTLING'S THE MONTH

I don't mean to devote this space fully to that one paragraph. There are many things in Andy's composition which attracted me to it. I especially liked his understanding of wrestlers' ambitions. Only a few wrestlers go in to a match wanting to hurt an opponent. Winning is what's important, not inflicting pain. Professionals can't be bothered with that nonsense. If you examine a grudge match closely, you'll see it's usually between two men vying for a title shot. They may hate each other, but only because the other man stands in their way of a championship. Don't always listen to what wrestlers say about each other. Look at where a victory will put them in the ratings. That's the real motive behind most matches! Andy understands that.

I know it may sound corny, but Andy also realizes wrestlers do a lot of their work just to win fans' approval. It wouldn't sound corny if you've ever heard an arena cheer at your appearance. There is no thrill comparable to it. It delights every nerve in your body. Whatever the wrestler gives the fans, the fans give him so much more.

I'm delighted to make Andy Hodges "Top Fan of the Month." I know it's a great honor for him. And I'd also like to congratulate the many other fans whose fine compositions I've had the joy to read. Never has such a difficult choice been so pleasurable. □

HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read.

Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

TOP FAN CONTEST
c/o INSIDE WRESTLING
Box 58
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

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Inside
Wrestling

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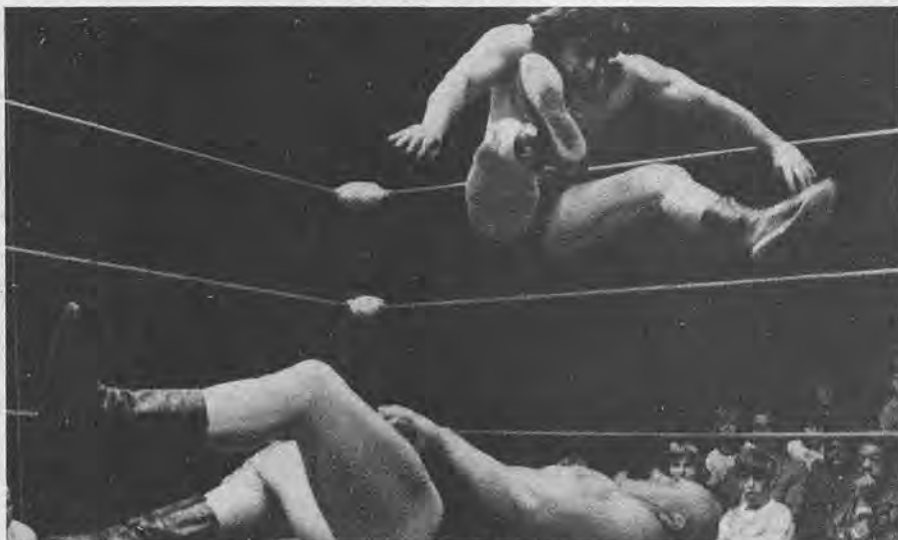
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND FILL OUT THE SUBSCRIPTION AD ON PAGE 19

YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!



BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 8)



Dino Bravo is better than ever since returning from his vacation in the Swiss Alps. "Skiing," Dino claims, "is great exercise. After a week, I'm in peak condition, ready to wrestle and beat the best!"

the guy quite a going over. He later found out it wasn't me, and attempted to apologize, but the battered reporter wouldn't accept Ric's apologies. A lawsuit is now pending. HA!

Many fans have written to ask me, "What does Bob Backlund do in the dressing room before a match?" The popular native of Princeton, Minnesota, is as cool as a cucumber before a match, no matter how important. He likes to lay back on a rubbing table and relax, while reading a copy of *INSIDE WRESTLING*.

Although Bob Orton, Jr. and I don't see eye to eye, I still wanted him to receive dozens of Christmas cards you fans had sent me to give to Bob. Well, I sent them, and a few days later got them all back with a note. It said, "Most of my fans know what they're doing, having me as their favorite. But I've got to question their intelligence when they mail cards to you to give to me. I'm sending them all back. I don't want them!" I apologize to all of you who sent Bob cards. But that's how it is when you deal with rulebreakers!

Your responses to me on whether or not you think I should referee a match from time to time are coming in by the bagful. I'll soon let you know the results.

Speaking of letters, I've received many of them asking what would happen if Dean Ho and Tony Garea were asked to wrestle each other.

"I wouldn't want it to happen," said Dean. "I'd turn the offer down."

"I'd do the same," said Garea, "unless of course, the offer was to wrestle for the championship. Then I think we'd both have to reluctantly accept."

"If we ever faced each other," said Ho, "we'd each give 100 percent, and may the best man win. But man, I hope that day never comes around."

I just got back from a skiing vacation in Switzerland with Dino Bravo. Dino and I had all anyone could ask for. We had snow all around us, separate cottages with huge working fireplaces, expensive German sports cars, and women, women, women.

Dino is quite an understanding athlete, and he possesses a magnetic personality. It's quite easy to understand why he is such a fan favorite.

One afternoon, while sitting around watching the sun set behind the breathtaking Matterhorn, Dino told me some interesting things about several wrestlers—mostly rulebreakers. One of the rulebreakers he discussed was the dangerous Siberian, Nikolai Volkoff.

I had seen Volkoff wrestle—and I use that term loosely—on several occasions. A few months ago, I saw him tear S.D. Jones to pieces. The referee caught Volkoff using a foreign object and confiscated it. A few minutes later, Volkoff attacked

(Continued on page 48)



LEARN FROM THE DRAGON!

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Fortunately, we have a limited supply of additional copies, which we are now making available. We warn you to avoid another sold out disappointment by ordering immediately.

WINTER 1975



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ADULT
READING

BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 46)

Jones with yet another foreign object. Again Nikolai was caught by the referee, and again the foreign object was taken away. However, a few minutes later, Volkoff was using yet another foreign object.

"What the hell is going on?!" I asked myself. "Where are all these foreign objects coming from?" Later, I tried to get into Volkoff's dressing room but without a disguise I didn't have a prayer.

Dino Bravo told me that in the waistband of Volkoff's wrestling trunks is a virtual arsenal of foreign objects.

"I know that for a fact," said Bravo. "I don't know the exact number he carries, but I'd be willing to bet it's at least a half-dozen." I plan on finding out. Perhaps I can get a picture or two of the trunks before he changes into them. It's going to be tough, but I thrive on stuff like that.

Dino also told me some other information that, for now, I must keep under my hat. It's information I must verify before telling you. I can tell you a few of the names mentioned were Terry Funk, The Executioners, Stan Hansen, Stan Stasiak and Nick Bockwinkel. I am about to make their lives miserable.

When I returned from my skiing vacation with Bravo, Editor-in-Chief Peter King broke the news to me that Dan Shocket, my colleague, closest friend, and author of the popular column, "Bodyslams and Pinfalls," had become wrestling's first bad guy reporter.

Upon finding out about Dan's alliance with all of our sport's rulebreakers, I hustled over to his exclusive New York City brownstone. When I got there, Dan had an evil look in his eyes.

"Come on in," he said.

As I stepped into his lavishly decorated abode, I was shocked to see he had visitors—Lou Albano, Freddie Blassie, Ric Flair and Bobby Heenan, just to name a few. It looked like a rulebreaker's convention. I turned and headed for the door. As I did so, I heard Albano yell, "So long, wormslime."

Let them laugh. I'm sure I'll have the final laugh! What would you do if you were me? ☐

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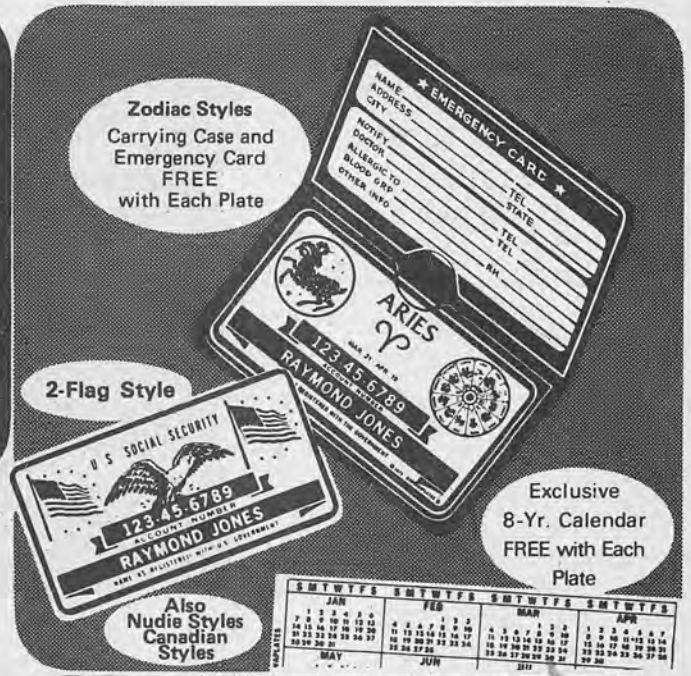
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EXECUTIONERS UNMASKED

(Continued from Page 23)



Above: Hiding behind their masks, The Executioners will pose all day. Below: Executioner#1 punches Bruno Sammartino in the throat, one of lesser illegal tactics used constantly by the masked pair. It's no wonder they're hated throughout the WWWF.



man of my word. May the photographer and everyone at INSIDE WRESTLING roast in hell."

It was signed, "Love and kisses, Lou Albano."

Then we saw the photograph. With their bare faces staring at us were the mugs of Doug Gilbert and Scandor Akbar. Nobody in our office said a word for a long time.

Finally, I broke the silence. A shellburst wouldn't have been more shattering than the sound of my voice.

"Anybody believe it?" My question went unanswered for a good long time.

"There may be more than two Executioners," someone opined, "we know that for a fact. Gilbert and Akbar may be two of many. Then again, maybe not. Anything is possible."

"But is it probable?" retorted a senior editor. "Randy is right. Does anyone believe it? I think Albano is trying to pull a fast one. I don't think Gilbert and Akbar are The Executioners."

I'd seen The Executioners unmasked, at least had a glimpse of them. The two guys that night weren't Gilbert and Akbar. I know that. But the photo lay stark on the desk, daring me to question it.

"We have to print it," someone declared, bringing up the unavoidable bottom line. "Whether it's real or not, the fans deserve to know what Albano's trying to do. At least, they have the right to decide for themselves



Whomever The Executioners are, they still can't excuse the reprehensible doubleteaming of Dom DeNucci.

whether or not it's a phony."

Everyone agreed. The fans have the right to decide for themselves. So we print the photo. And we print the explanation of how we got it.

This is something else we must print. We have to admit the photo doesn't jive with the facts. Gilbert and Akbar don't wrestle like The Executioners. They don't use the same moves. Hell, they're not even the same height. It's like arresting someone for murder when someone else's fingerprints are on the knife.

We asked Gilbert and Akbar if they were indeed The Executioners. When we found them, in one of the most expensive restaurants in New York, they weren't in any condition to answer anything. The two guys had been spending money like sailors who had found buried treasure.

"Have a drink!" Gilbert chortled at me. "It's on the house. Albano is as big as a house!"

"No, thanks," I replied, brushing his hand off my lapel. "I saw a photo of you and Akbar in the office. Sure fooled me. Didn't think you guys were The Executioners."

"We're going to fool a lot of people," Gilbert snorted, "a lot of people. Nobody will suspect the truth."

Everybody suspects, Gilbert. The whole thing stinks. Albano is trying to pull a fast one. At least, that's my opinion.

You'll have to decide for yourself. Wrestling fans know Lou Albano. The truth is up for grabs. □

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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)



Fred Blassie and Captain Louis Albano—here are two men who are constantly jeered. The fans should appreciate the intelligence quota these two men share. They possess brilliant minds and are fine outstanding gentlemen.

what it takes to be one of my wrestlers. Stiffs like Bruno Sammartino, Jack Brisco, Paul Jones, or Greg Gagne couldn't wrestle for me no matter how much they begged. I'm a businessman, you know, and those clods couldn't earn me a wooden nickel. When you think of how much they have to pay in bribes, it isn't worth the trouble. No, give me a wrestler with guts, determination, and skill. I'll make him a champion, if you also give me a decent referee."

As might be expected, Lou becomes enraged when lying cowards accuse him of physically interfering in a match.

"Anyone with any intelligence," Albano points out, "knows I don't interfere. Unfortunately, wrestling fans don't have any intelligence. They believe what stupid people tell them. So, if a perennial loser like Chief Jay Strongbow says he lost because I interfered, the fans believe him. The fact that Strongbow doesn't have enough skill to defeat a pillow doesn't bother the fans; they'll believe anybody with feathers coming out of his head.

"I don't need to interfere. My men have always been the best, made even better by my genius. No manager interferes. Why should anyone want to manage a wrestler who needs help? You hire men who

can win on their own. If I had to interfere, I'd fire the guy the moment the match ended. Every other manager feels the same way, except that disgrace named Arnold Skoaland.

"Skoaland manages Bruno Sammartino, so I guess he has to interfere. I want to go on the record publicly to state I, and all other managers, consider Skoaland a blight on our good names. If he had any integrity at all, he'd send Sammartino to some animal preserve and manage a real wrestler."

Lou Albano's brilliance, along with that of most managers, is probably doomed to be misunderstood forever. Wrestling fans, whose trust far exceeds their intelligence, will never realize they're being hoodwinked by their scientific favorites. Like the fools they appear to be, wrestling fans will continue to boo managers and cheer the flotsam calling themselves scientific wrestlers.

It's a pity fans refuse to acknowledge the greatness of managers. It's a shame these men have to be greeted with boos at every appearance. It's a disgrace they are cheated of victories by colleagues, corrupt officials, and illegal assaults, all with the cheering approval of fools who call themselves fans. □

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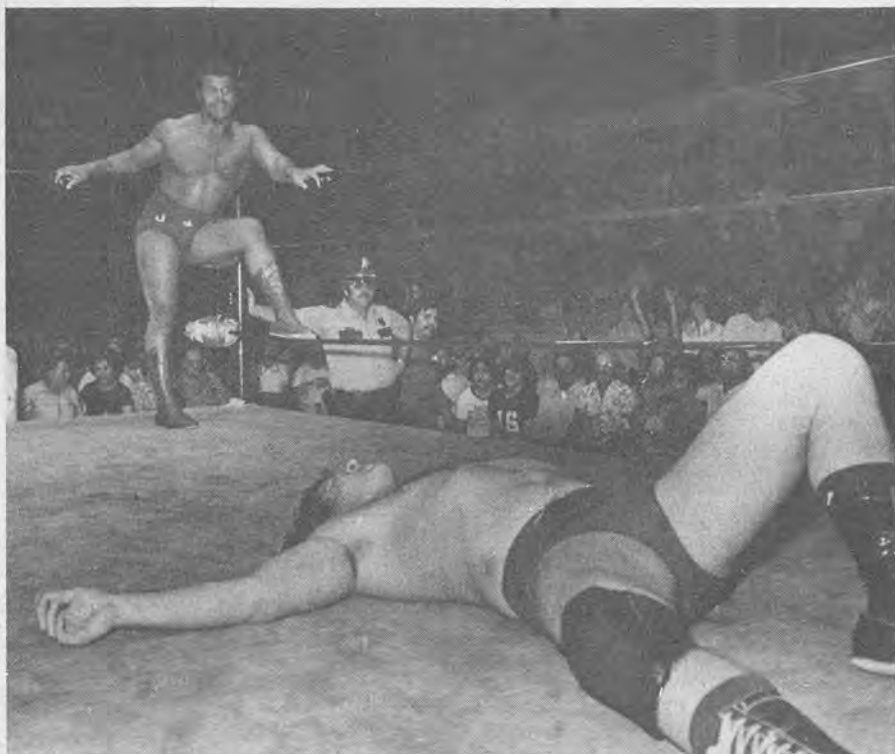
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DRIVING TERRY FUNK CRAZY...

(Continued from Page 33)



This is the position I usually saw Funk in during most of the matches I covered (above). He did get some licks in on big Dusty (below), but for the most part Dusty really whipped him.



with anger, taking it out on his rather stunned opponent, Dusty Rhodes. Rhodes had never seen Funk like this, and neither had I. Terry brawled recklessly, an animal battling on instinct fueled by hatred. Rhodes, caught off guard, never had a chance

to win. All Dusty's complex strategies; the subtle maneuvers honed for this battle, were useless. Rhodes knew the bout would be ended on a disqualification. Funk's continual rulebreaking left no other possibility.

When the inevitable occurred, Funk was disqualified for using a maneuver too dirty for a streetbrawl. Rhodes was enraged. He didn't even let the referee raise his hand in victory. The title he so desperately wanted had been taken away from him by Funk's reaction to me.

"The next time I wrestle you," Dusty swore, "I'll break both your arms and leave you for dead!"

I don't blame him. I would have reacted the same way.

Of course, you can't get away with brawling more than once in a great while. If people expect you to brawl, they can easily prepare for it and wipe the floor with you. Funk knows that. He also knew the next match would have to be scientific, or at least intelligent.

Before he entered the ring for the third match, he said to me, "Watch this, 'reporter.' Tell the people how great I am."

On this night, Terry was great. Everything he tried—and I have to admit they were pretty complicated maneuvers—he accomplished. Rocky Johnson was overwhelmed. Anyone

would have been. If Funk would regularly be this great, there's no doubt in my mind he could be one of the top champions of all time.

However, Terry lacks the stamina to be great consistently. The next match saw him again taking advantage of questionable technicalities, saving his title rather than his reputation. There was ugly cheating, dirty tactics, and a total disregard for the sport's integrity. Every so often, you could see the skill which made him champion. It was too little too few times.

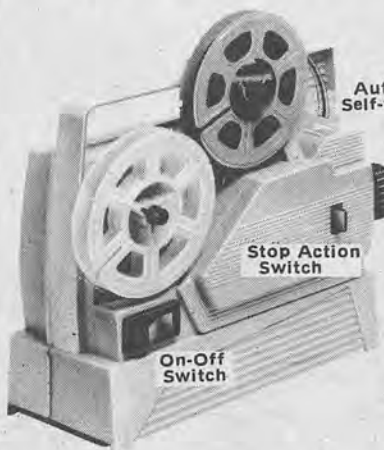


One thing is certain—Funk is glad to see me away from the press table. It really made him nervous seeing me match after match, copying down his moves. He would often scream at me between falls, demanding I tell the world of his greatness. A few times, when the matches were going against him, he stared at me in crazed anger, fearing what I'd write. People told me Funk would storm in the dressing room, damning me and INSIDE WRESTLING. If they ever take Terry away in a straight-jacket, I could be responsible.

I know a lot of people think I'm a prejudiced reporter. I can't deny I have more than a reporter's interest in Funk. I want the NWA title back, especially from the man who beat me for it. However, I've been as fair as I possibly can. I wish, for the good of the sport, that I could have said finer things about the man who is now champion.

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 12)



Stan Hansen has made many enemies in the press. In turn, they have given him consistently bad coverage. All Stan is asking for is honest reporting.

who are honest enough to tell it like it is."

As a reporter, I have tried to remain a skeptic. I question what any wrestler tells me in an interview. The one point which struck me as odd was Hansen saying he didn't get upset about what reporters said about him. I could remember differently. Case in point: my colleague, Randy Gordon. Hansen had been angered by what Randy had said in his column, "Behind the Dressing Room Door," and he had been willing to battle it out with him. Then suddenly he had backed out of the whole proposition. Why?

"That was a particularly complicated situation," Stan told me. "I just couldn't get along with Gordon. He issued the challenge. I accepted. After a while I thought better of it. But let me set the record straight: I was not afraid of him. If we had battled, I would have killed the little twerp. It would not have been a smart thing to do for either of us!"

During the entire interview I had with him, Hansen never tried to excuse his illegal tactics or anything he had done as a wrestler. In fact, he

seemed rather proud of his achievements. But that was not what I had come to talk about.

I asked Stan if his bad experience with the press would make him bitter toward the entire journalistic community. After all, I had trouble getting this interview. Other reporters have had similar problems. Was he purposely making himself inaccessible to the press?

"Well," said Hansen, "I would have to say yes. There's an old saying which I think is applicable here: 'Once burnt, twice shy.' I've been burnt by the press a lot. Now I would rather stay away. In time, my position may change. For now, I have as little to do with the press as possible. In fact, you are the first reporter I've allowed to interview me in a month.

"In addition, I think it's going to be pretty hard for me to get a fair deal in the east now. I'm going back to Texas. It's time to start all over."

As we concluded the interview, I had to agree with Stan. He was hostile towards the press because the press had been hostile towards him. Any maybe it was time for reporters to give him a chance. □

"Look who's smiling now!"

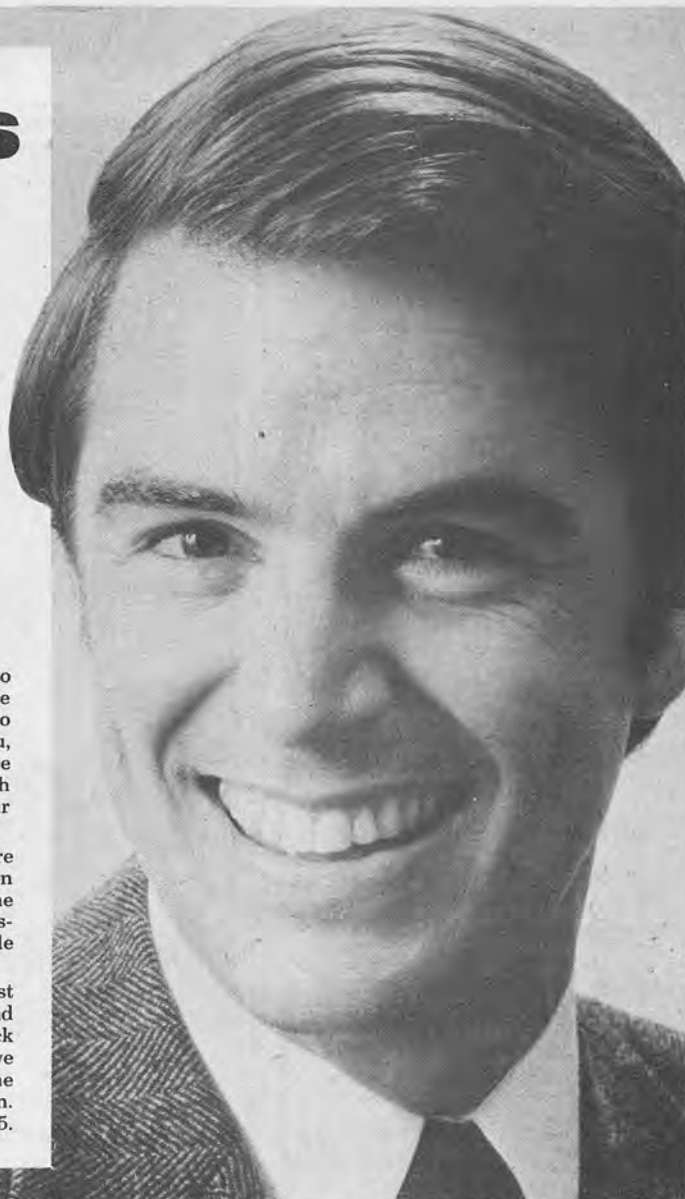
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BRUNO SAMMARTINO

(Continued from Page 36)



Young Bruno shows his agility as well as his strength (above). Against Wild Bull Curry, Sammartino depends mostly on his power (below).



match. A thunderous cheer rises for both wrestlers as the two men face each other in the ring. Then there is silence.

Freeze that moment in time. Don't forget the picture. For a moment let us switch the scene to interviews conducted by this magazine with wrestlers familiar with both the young Bruno and the matured Bruno. These men have been asked to discuss the outcome of this dream match.

"In my mind," says Gorilla Monsoon, "there is no doubt that the Bruno of 1977 would win. He knows more about wrestling now. He is more experienced and could handle his younger self quite easily. He may be more of a brawler now, but he is also a better wrestler."

"Bruno is definitely better now than he was in 1963," says Bobo Brazil. "In 1963, Sammartino was just a very strong young man. Now he is a clever wrestler whose skills have developed greatly over the years. The 1977 Bruno will win."

"They are both lousy wrestlers," comments Waldo Von Erich. "And I really don't care which man wins."



Sammartino's arms are raised after his splendid victory over Nikolai Volkoff, one of the high points in his second title reign.

Shift the scene back to that frozen moment of time at Madison Square Garden. The bell rings. Both men approach each other cautiously. They try to find each other's weakness. But they find that the weaknesses of their opponent are the same weaknesses they have themselves.

There's a sudden flurry of activity. Both men are giving their fullest to this match. The younger one is relying mostly on his brute strength to see him through. The older man is showing his tendency to brawl savagely. Neither man seems to be able to hold the advantage over the other.

This action continues for almost 30 minutes. The pace never lets up. Both men seem evenly matched. Both wrestlers are tiring quickly. But then the veteran Bruno Sammartino shines through. Only a man with his vast experience would know how to summon that last reserve of strength.

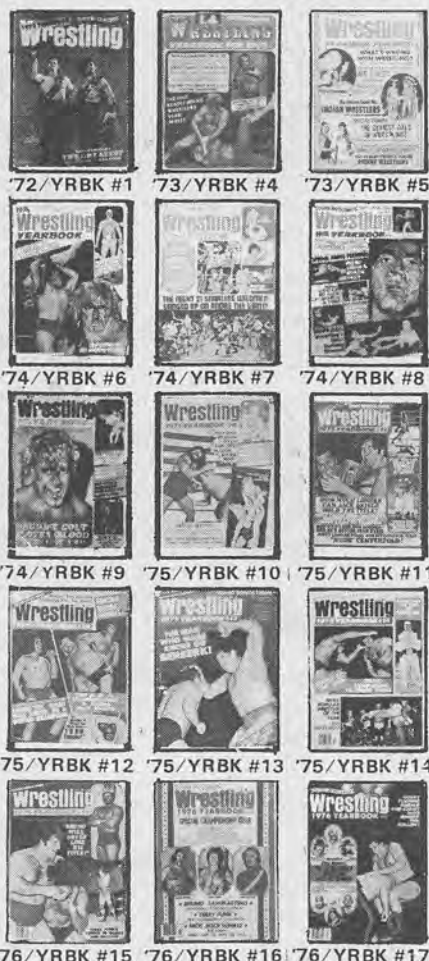
The young Sammartino tries his most effective maneuver—a bear-hug—but he can't seem to put enough strength into it at this point. The matured Bruno finds an opening, and he takes advantage of the situation. With that last bit of strength held in reserve, the veteran breaks the hold and overpowers his opponent. In a few seconds, it is over.

A wild, enthusiastic cheer rings throughout the huge arena. The young wrestler climbs to his feet, walks over to the vanquisher, and shakes his hand. The announcer enters the ring and clutches the older Bruno Sammartino's hand and raises it high.

"Ladies and gentlemen," the announcer intones, "the winner and still champion, Bruno Sammartino!"

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)



Nick Bockwinkel poses with his manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. Is it true Heenan ordered the massacre of Nick when he sent him into battle against the feared Baron Von Raschke?

MOST COLORFUL

I have just finished reading 'Did Bobby Heenan Order the Massacre of Nick Bockwinkel?' (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). It was one of the best written articles I have ever seen.

I sure hope Bobby didn't set Nick up. I feel that both Nick and Bobby need each other. Together they are two of the most colorful people in wrestling. It would be a shame if Nick fired his manager. I may not like the tactics Nick uses, but without Bobby, he wouldn't be able to keep his belt very long. Keep us up to date on Nick Bockwinkel and Bobby Heenan.

KAREN NEILSON
Seattle, Wash.

RECOGNITION AT LAST

I just want to thank you for your December 1976 "On the Road," featuring Bobby Backlund, Steve Keirn, and Mike Graham. Steve is my favorite, and I'm glad someone finally recognized his ability. I also like Backlund and Graham, and I agree with Michael B. Kape that these young men *are* the wrestlers of today. I hope to see more on them soon. Thanks again.

ELAINE L. BRUTOSKY
Philadelphia, Pa.

ONE MORE FOR DAN

Fantastic! Someone finally write the truth about Bruno Sammartino and the way he wrestles. It is true he does cheat, but no one will admit it. However, this just goes to show, "It's not how you wrestle, it's who."

The only true champion is Mil Mascaras. He never resorts to dirty tricks. He simply doesn't have to in order to win.

SKIP GALISEWSKI
Iselin, N.J.

TRULY TRUE

I am writing to congratulate Dan Shocket for his article on fan abuse in "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). It is about time someone spoke out on this issue.

I have had many experiences with so-called fan favorites. In one incident, one of my favorite wrestlers shoved me away like a dog. I feel that if I pay money to see my heroes, what is wrong with politely asking for his autograph? Still, the fans are told to get lost.

If this continues, attendance will go down, which will mean less money in wrestlers' pockets. I thank INSIDE WRESTLING for publishing this truly great article.

DEAN FLEISCHMAN
Beaver Falls, Penn. □

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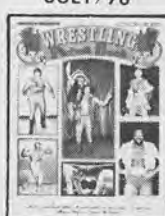
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GIVE ...HEART FUND

WRESTLING CAPITALS

(Continued from Page 40)



Above: A bloody Boris Malenko lies exhausted on the canvas after losing an incredibly brutal chain match. Below: Ric Flair is solemn after his losing tag team effort.



GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA—Correspondent: Joe Ryan—A wild chain match between Red Bastien and Professor Boris Malenko thrilled fans here. Malenko took control in the beginning of the match, having more experience in chain matches (and having greater bloodlust!). Soon, Red's forehead was dripping blood from a huge gash. Enraged, Red took the chain, wrapped it around his fist, and smashed Malenko across the jaw. Malenko crumpled to the canvas. Bastien was able to drag his victim twice around the ring, and earned the victory. It was a great moment in Red's life, as everyone believed Malenko's vast chain match experience would prove too much for the popular mat star.

QUEENS, NEW YORK—Correspondent: Eddie Wilkowski—Sunny-side Gardens was the site for Ivan Putski's confrontation with Bruiser Brodie. Ivan couldn't wait to get his hands on this hated foe. From the opening bell, Putski raged. Brodie, doing anything to save his skin, yanked Ivan's hair and got free. Yet, Ivan refused to be denied the victory. He came right back at Brodie. The ring was too small to contain such a wild confrontation and the brawl spilled over the ropes and onto the ring apron. Putski smashed Brodie, who fell back into the ring. Ivan was about to follow his foe when the referee ended the match, claiming Putski was counted out! Heartbroken, Ivan left deprived of a victory he craved so much.

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA—Correspondents: Peggy Morgan and Belford Harvey—Paul Jones and Rufus R. Jones handily defeated Ric Flair and Masked Superstar in a stunning upset. Veteran observers had pegged the losers to take the match, but that didn't take into account the determination of Paul and Rufus. There was a lot of action as partners tagged in and out frequently. At first, it looked like Ric Flair would dominate the action, easily dominating Rufus. However, Rufus turned the tables and then sought his partner's aid. Paul came and took care of Flair. From that point on, the partners Jones controlled the match. Their inevitable victory came and the crowd went wild. Flair couldn't believe it, and neither could the Masked Superstar. They walked out of the arena as if their best friend had just died. Paul and Rufus, in contrast, had to be the two happiest men in West Virginia. □

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Your spark plugs control the efficiency of that explosion. And if they are borderline plugs, not only do they give a small spark to begin with, but they get worse every mile you drive. That you can see for yourself! Put a new set of spark plugs in your car and then look at them at 100 miles — at 1,000 miles — at 5,000 miles. Every time you look you will see more filth and carbon...more of the electrode burning and eroding away.

Why, some of the new high compression engines can burn up a set of spark plugs in a couple of thousand miles of driving. Now, you tell me how a weak, inefficient spark from a filthy, burned-out plug can possibly give you the kind of flashing, economical performance you want from your car!



NEW PLUG OLD PLUG

Spark plug experts admit that plugs only 200 hours old can waste up to one quart of gas out of every gallon you buy...that's 25¢ for every \$1.00 you spend. And—after only 10,000 miles they're ready for the garbage!

STOP USING YOUR OLD BORDERLINE SPARK PLUGS NOW!

Now, read very carefully what I'm going to suggest. I am going to give you the idea to stop using 10,000-mile spark plugs in your car! That's right...get rid of them forever! But, you may ask: "If I get rid of my plugs, what will make my engine run?"

Well, please remember that if you were told a couple of years ago that your car could run without a carburetor, you simply wouldn't have believed it—yet today you can have gas injection and get more mileage, efficiency and power from less gas—and in a few years gas injection will have

replaced carburetors on most cars. In the same way, all you have to do is to replace your old, borderline, inefficient spark plugs with a modern fuel ignition system, and you can do it yourself in 15 minutes if you've never handled a tool in your whole life!

MECHANICS AND ENGINEERS READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

Now, the new fire injection I am talking about is so inexpensive that it can pay for itself in gasoline savings alone. For the moment, forget about the extra pep, power and performance that can be in store for you. Forget about the savings in spark plug servicing and replacement, the savings in wear and tear on pistons and cylinders. Just remember that one plug mis-firing in a V-8 engine can cut mileage by as much as 12%. Just remember that this fire injection system can pay for itself in gas savings.

Let me tell you how:

A spark plug jumps a spark of electricity across an air gap; this is very wasteful, and limits the size of the spark.

A fire injector fires on the surface of a semi-conductive material which delivers a heavy, powerful flame that will not blow out at pressures far greater than those created by high-compression engines!

On borderline spark plugs, the air gap is always getting larger—wasting power and gasoline. Your plugs are constantly accumulating filth and carbon because of inefficient ignition.

A fire injector has no air gap to erode away. It will actually outlast your automobile, delivering maximum efficiency without servicing or replacement. There is no wasted gasoline, no loss of power to which you are entitled.

Ordinary spark plugs have to be replaced regularly — or for extra life, you must remove them — clean them — re-gap and then re-install them.

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When you get your set of Fire Injectors, here is all you do. If you have automatic transmission — make a note of how fast your car crawls forward when it is in the drive position with the motor idling. If you have a sports car, a racing car or a boat — make a note of the tachometer RPMs when idling.

If you have a regular transmission, put your car in low gear on a level road and notice its speed with the motor idling. Next, take any inexpensive spark plug wrench and remove your spark plugs. You'll never need them again! Just screw your fire injectors into the spark plug openings

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- NO wire electrode
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- NO cleaning or setting
- NO replacing
- NO blowing out even at highest compression

If you have automatic transmission, now put your car in drive and let your engine idle. If your car stood still with spark plugs, it will now move forward at from 4 to 6 miles per hour; that means the amount of gas that just kept your engine turning over will now carry you further — faster — cheaper!

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If you have regular transmission, in low gear and with your motor idling, your

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NICK BOCKWINKLE

(Continued from Page 43)



Nick Bockwinkel is silent—and obviously disgusted—as Heenan answers reporter's questions. Nick likes to talk to the press, and is not permitted to by the stipulations set down by Heenan in the contract.

gun at his head. Of course, some men can rob you with a fountain pen better than any outlaw with a machine gun.

There is only one way Bockwinkel can escape Heenan's legal clutches, according to our lawyers. It would take years of humiliating trials before he could be free, but it could be done. They write:

"It is highly probable this contract, so favoring one party over the other, was signed with Bockwinkel under coercion. If it is proved Bockwinkel had been threatened either physically or mentally, then the contract would be null and void.

"However, the threat must have been considerable for Bockwinkel to have affixed his signature to the document. We would doubt he'd risk trying to break the contract and expose himself to Heenan's wrath.

In Bockwinkel's case, the cure is probably worse than the disease, although we can't see how this could be. The contract reads as if a man wants to sign himself into slavery.

"There's a slight chance Bockwinkel can prove himself insane at the time he signed the contract."

Naturally, the wrestling community has been wondering what Heenan's blackmail could be. Looking over the contract, many wrestlers have declared only a murder rap could make them agree to Heenan's terms. It's doubtful Heenan knows of a murder Bockwinkel committed or any crime for that matter. In fact, blackmail doesn't make any sense. There is probably something more sinister behind it.

Could Bockwinkel have been

brainwashed? That's a real possibility. Watching Bockwinkle at press conferences and defending his title, he exhibits a child-like faith in Heenan's instructions. Nick never ventures an opinion of his own (and if he did, it would be in violation of his contract). Yet, Bockwinkle is visibly unhappy most of the time; brainwash victims are content in their place. This can be explained.



Bobby continues talking as Bockwinkle studies the legal contract just before signing his life away.

If the brainwashing is not total, if only the conscious surrenders without controlling the subconscious, then the victim will follow orders, but not happily. Heenan could very well have gone only so far as make Bockwinkle sign the contract. It's possible the manager didn't realize the first sign of success does not mean a man is fully brainwashed. That means Bockwinkle could regain his senses in the near future.

Will it be too late? When we asked our lawyers if a contract could be broken by charges of brainwashing, they said it could, BUT "it would take years and at least \$75,000 in legal and other fees. By the time the case is settled, Bockwinkle's career as an athlete would probably be over. It's doubtful Heenan has the assets to make a lawsuit worth sacrificing a career."

Nick Bockwinkle is in trouble. Whatever the reason, he is legally Bobby Heenan's slave. There seems to be no way out. The man who is AWA champion, conqueror of all he battles, has been brought to his knees by his own manager. Nick Bockwinkle is a champion to be pitied. □

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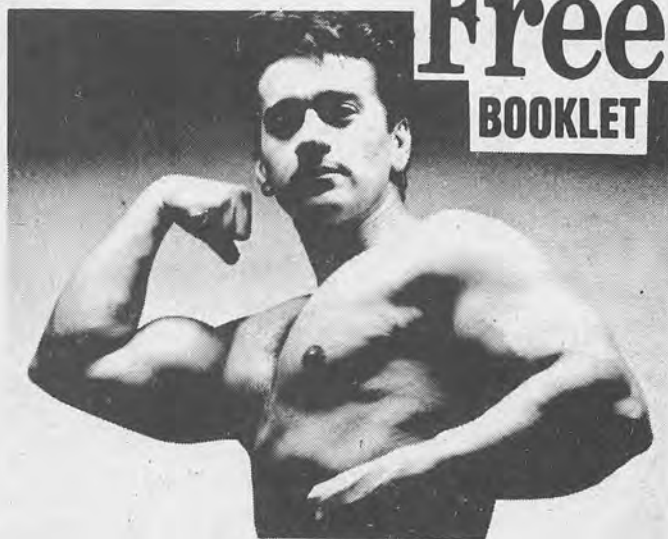


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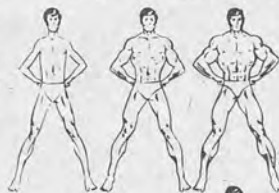
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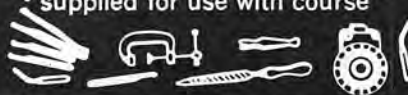
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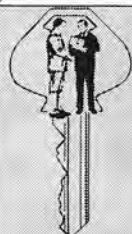
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